

METRO

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022



Sombre mission: The C17 carrying the Queen's coffin takes off from Edinburgh PA

FAREWELL TO QUEEN OF SCOTS

LAST LAMENT AS MONARCH FLIES HOME

by STEPHEN DEAL

SCOTLAND bade farewell to the Queen of Scots yesterday after an RAF plane bearing the coffin of Elizabeth II left Edinburgh.

Following her death at Balmoral on Thursday, the monarch's body was flown to RAF Northolt and then taken to Buckingham Palace in London.

First minister Nicola Sturgeon, together with Scottish secretary Alister Jack, was on the tarmac at Edinburgh Airport to see the Queen leave Scotland for the final time.

Ms Sturgeon said: 'Scotland has now bid our Queen of Scots a sad but fond farewell. We will not see her like again.'

It came after the Queen's body had lain at rest at St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh, with around 33,000 people filing past to pay their last respects.

A lone piper played as the coffin, which had been guarded by the new King Charles III and his siblings on Monday evening, was taken from the

Continued on **Page 2**

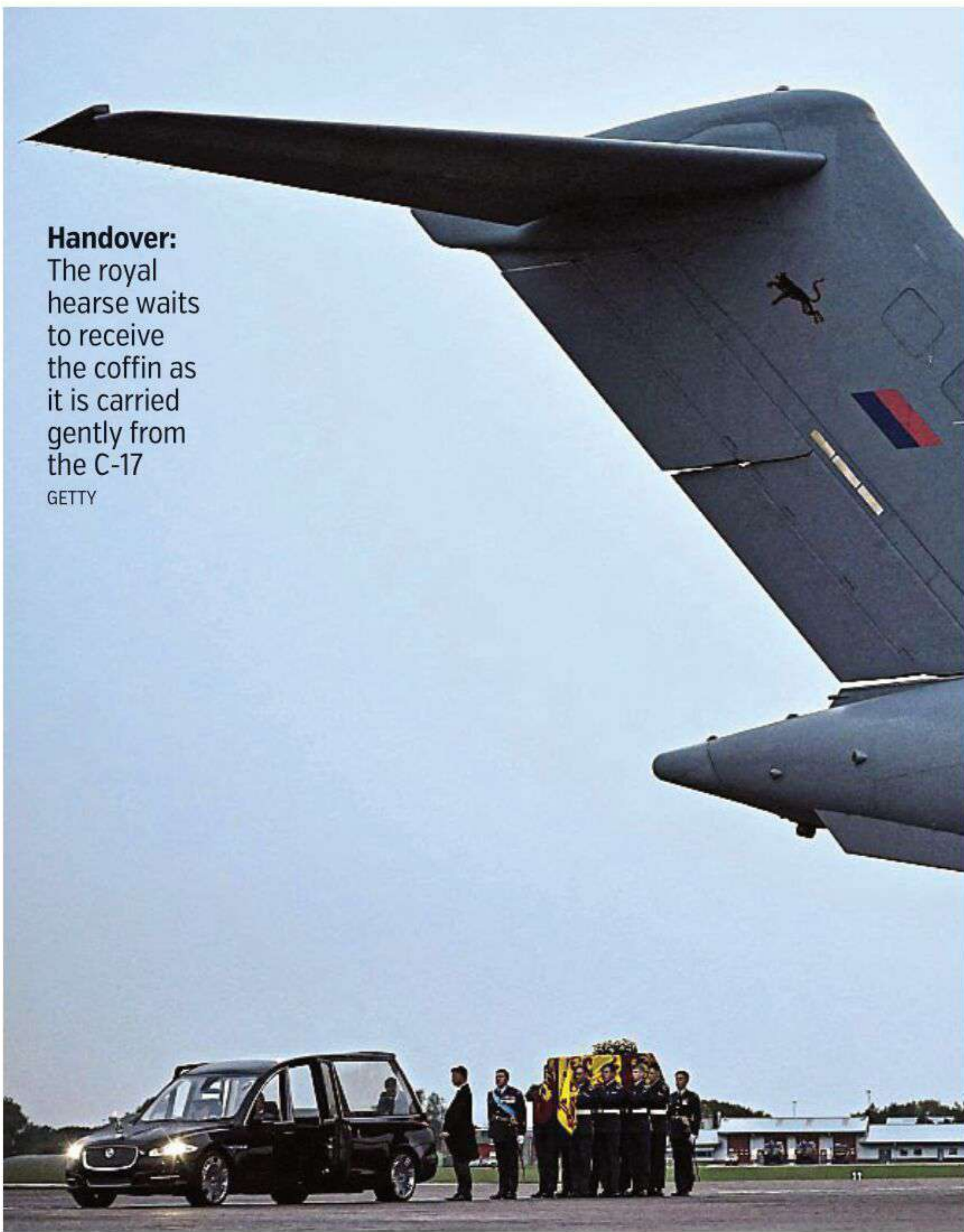
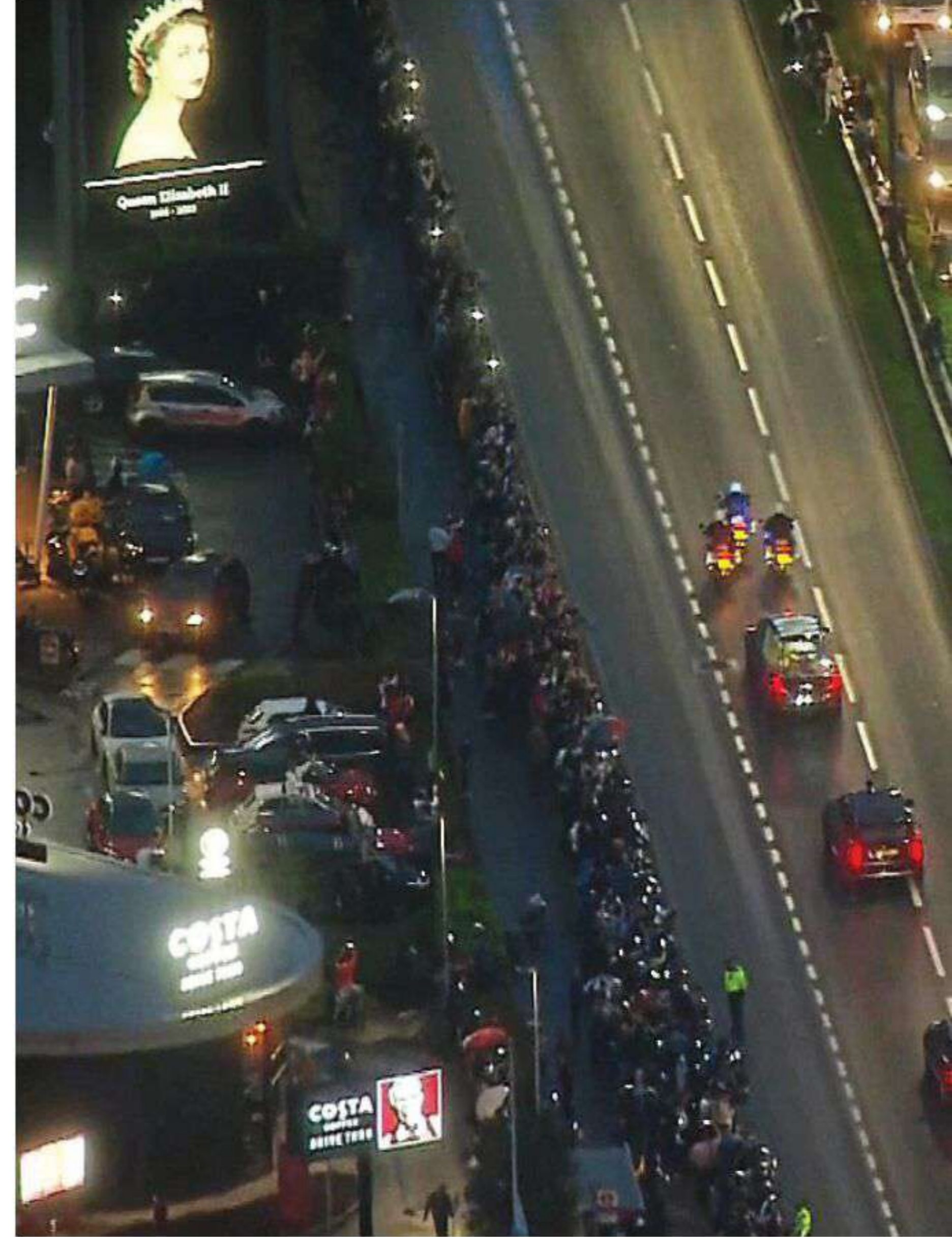
Homeward bound:

RAF pallbearers take the coffin on to a military aircraft in Edinburgh as the late Queen, below right, leaves Scotland for the last time AP



Elizabeth II 1926-2022

Lining the route: Crowds watch the hearse as it heads from RAF Northolt to Buckingham Palace REUTERS



Handover: The royal hearse waits to receive the coffin as it is carried gently from the C-17
GETTY



Landing stage: Pallbearers from the Queen's Colour Squadron carry her coffin
GETTY

RETURN TO

A FLIGHT FROM EDINBURGH, A DRIVE THROUGH LONDON...

» Continued from Page 1

cathedral yesterday afternoon. As the hearse bearing it drove down the Royal Mile, the crowd of thousands gathered in the capital burst into applause.

The Princess Royal, accompanied by her husband Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, travelled behind her late mother in a separate car.

The Queen's body was flown south on an RAF C-17 Globemaster aircraft bearing the call sign Kittyhawk – the official call sign for any military flight with the Queen on board.

The flight marked the end of what was known as Operation Unicorn, the plan drawn up in preparation for a royal death north of the border.

Ms Sturgeon said: 'Scotland has bid a final and poignant farewell to our much loved Elizabeth, Queen of Scots.'

'Over these past few days we have seen just how much Her Majesty meant to the people of Scotland.'

'As anticipated, people from all walks of life gathered across the country and in our capital to pay tribute to the only monarch most of us have ever known.'

'The scenes on Sunday as Her Majesty's cortège made the journey from Balmoral Castle to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, and then yesterday and today as thousands gathered along the Royal Mile



Farewell: Queen's final appearance at Buckingham Palace in June with great-grandchildren George, Charlotte and Louis, as Platinum Jubilee celebrations ended AP

and queued to enter St Giles to see the Queen's coffin, will for ever more form a special part of the history of Scotland.'

'The events of recent days have provided a sincere, solemn and fitting tribute from the people of Scotland to Her Majesty The Queen.'

Moments after touching down in the rain at Northolt airbase last night, Princess Anne released an emotional statement about her journey from Balmoral to London. 'I was fortunate to

share the last 24 hours of my dearest mother's life,' she said.

'It has been an honour and a privilege to accompany her on her final journeys. Witnessing the love and respect shown by so many on these journeys has been both humbling and uplifting.'

'We will all share unique memories. I offer my thanks to each and every one who share our sense of loss. We may have been reminded how much of her presence and contribution to our national

Special role for Penny policing historic event

PENNY LANCASTER has told of her pride at policing the Queen's funeral as a City of London special constable.

The model and TV host – married to singer Sir Rod Stewart – told Good Morning Britain viewers she took up the role in April last year.

She said: 'It was a great

privilege to work at the Queen's memorial service at St. Paul's Cathedral on Friday.'

She added she is working today and looked forward to serving at the 'historic' funeral.

Penny, 51, also recalled dancing with King Charles on his 60th birthday – as Sir Rod sang Da Ya Think I'm Sexy?



Privilege: Penny in police role at RAF Northolt REX



The Queen's rain: Thousands of people see the motorcade as it travels along a wet A40 UNPIXS



Final arrival: Crowds photograph the Queen as she is driven through the gates of the palace one last time REUTERS

THE PALACE

WITH ANNE ALONGSIDE AGAIN, QUEEN IS FINALLY HOME



identity we took for granted. I am also so grateful for the support offered to my dear brother Charles as he accepts the added responsibilities of the monarch.

'To my mother, The Queen, thank you.' After the RAF plane landed at Northolt a hearse took the coffin on the 45-minute drive through West London to the Queen's official home.

Despite darkness and drizzle, crowds gathered in tribute along the 14 mile route. Cars also stopped on the A40 and

Plane carrying coffin aided Afghan escape

THE RAF plane that carried the Queen's coffin from Edinburgh to London last night flew out thousands of people fleeing the Taliban in Afghanistan last summer.

Air Ch Mshl Sir Mike Wigston said the C-17 Globemaster carried the majority of the 15,000 people who were taken

out of Kabul. 'And, since then, it's been involved in airlifting humanitarian aid and lethal aid nodes to support Ukraine.'

Praising the Queen for her lifetime of service, he added: 'She had a depth of wisdom and interest in geopolitics or the technology of today.'

at landmarks including Marble Arch and Hyde Park Corner to see the cortège.

At Buckingham Palace, people threw flowers in her path as she entered the palace gates. Some cheered. Others wiped away tears.

The sombre scenes could not have been more different to her last appearance at the palace - waving from its balcony in June with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren during celebrations for her Platinum Jubilee.

The King had arrived at Buckingham Palace two hours earlier, after returning from Northern Ireland, where he had met officials at Hillsborough Castle royal residence in Belfast, on the last leg his three-day tour of the UK with Camilla, the Queen Consort.

Soon after 8pm, the King, Princes William and Harry, Anne, Andrew and Edward received her coffin in private.

It was to rest overnight in the Bow Room, facing the palace's gardens, after a brief stay in the Throne Room for palace staff to pay their respects.

At 2.22pm today, the royals will begin their walk from the palace to Westminster Hall behind the hearse.

The Queen's grandsons will put aside their differences for the sombre procession behind her coffin today - joined by their father in a heartrending reminder of their own mother's funeral

25 years ago. The brothers were just 15 and 12 when they walked in silence from Kensington Palace to Westminster Abbey in September 1997, six days after their mother Diana died in a Paris car crash, aged just 36.

William, the Prince of Wales, and Harry, the Duke of Sussex, will this time follow their gran's coffin from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall, where her body will lie in state for four days.

The royal party - also including the Duke of York, the Princess Royal and the Earl of Wessex - are expected to arrive there at 3pm. Anne's son Peter Phillips and VAdm Sir Tim Laurence will also walk in the procession.

The Queen Consort, the Princess of Wales, the Countess of Wessex and the Duchess of Sussex will travel by car. The late monarch will lie in state there for 24 hours a day from 5pm today until 6.30am on Monday, before her funeral at 11am.

Last night mourners were queuing in the rain for today's lying in state.

Monica Farag, 61 - waiting outside Lambeth Palace since 8am - said: 'I'm staying here overnight. I didn't bring a chair but I can sit on the ground.'

Amy veteran David Carlson, 75, of London, said: 'I took an oath to serve her - she was my boss. And she swore an oath when she was young to serve the country for the rest of her life which she did.'



Flying home: RAF personnel board plane to return to UK RAF



United in grief:

William, left, and Harry will walk together behind the coffin GETTY



Solemn: The Prince and Princess of Wales drive to Buckingham Palace to await the coffin AP

Elizabeth II 1926-2022

No invitation to funeral for Putin and his allies

VLADIMIR PUTIN has been blacklisted from attending the Queen's funeral, sources in Whitehall have said.

And no invites have been extended to the Russian leader's ally in Belarus, president Aleksandr Lukashenko, or to rulers in Myanmar.

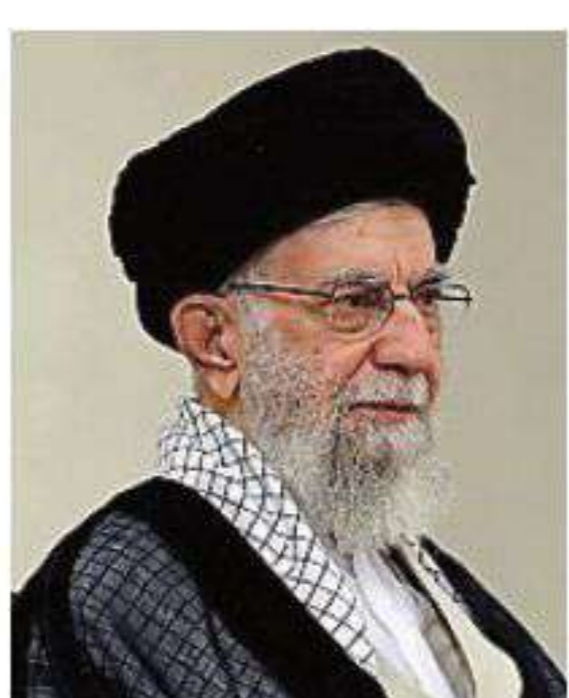
Iran, led by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, will only be represented at the event at an ambassadorial level, government insiders said.

Around 500 foreign dignitaries are expected to attend the funeral at Westminster Abbey on Monday to pay their last respects to the Queen.

They will join members of the royal family, UK prime ministers past and present, and key figures from public life at the 11am service.

'This is the biggest international event we have hosted in decades,' a Whitehall source said.

The insider compared the logistical task to organising 'hundreds of state visits' within a matter of days -



Snub: From top: Putin, Lukashenko and Ali Khamenei
PICTURES: AP/REX

when, normally, there might only be two or three a year.

Invites were sent to heads of state of nations with which the UK has diplomatic relations at the weekend.

But none were dispatched to Russia - or supporter Belarus - over its invasion of Ukraine. Myanmar, where the military seized power in a coup last year, was also blacklisted from the event.

No guest list has yet been published, but US president Joe Biden was among the first to declare he will be flying in with his wife, Jill.

The leaders of most Commonwealth countries are also set to be among the 2,000-strong congregation.

Royal families from across the globe will also come to pay their respects.

Arrival times will vary from leader to leader, Downing Street said.

PM Liz Truss is not expected to hold meetings with world leaders but 'informal conversations may take place', her spokesperson said.

You can't Parc here! Fury as holiday centres close



Dome and away: The roof at Longleat, one of the Center Parcs where visitors were initially told to leave

CENTER PARCS was flooded with complaints after announcing that holidaymakers must leave its UK sites on the day of the Queen's funeral.

The five parks were due to close for 24 hours from 10am on Monday. Guests part-way through holidays were told they would have to spend the night elsewhere or go home early.

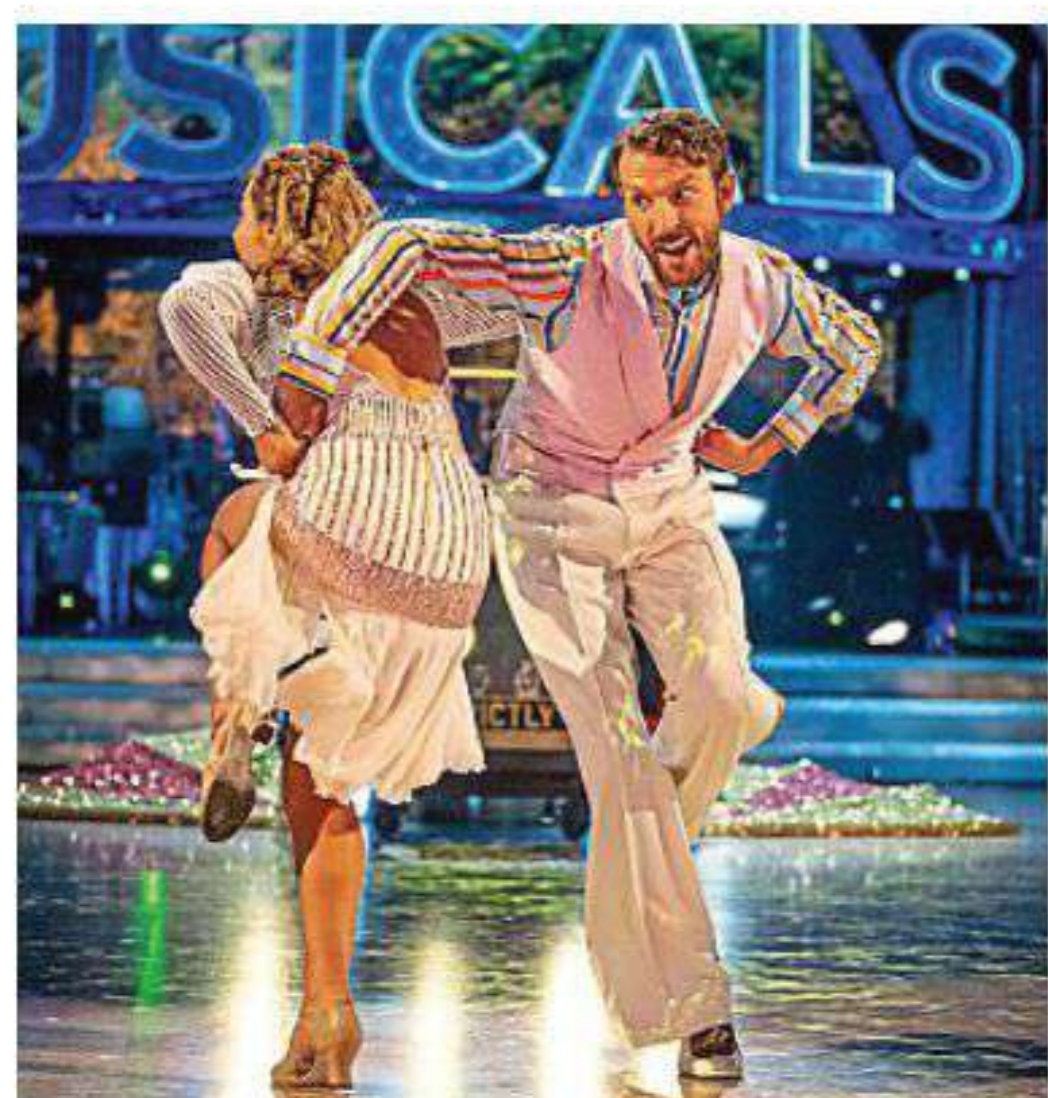
And those arriving on Monday were given the opportunity to begin their breaks a day later. Center Parcs said it was as 'a mark of respect and to allow

as many of our colleagues as possible to be part of this historic moment'.

But the company made a U-turn last night, saying guests would be allowed to stay on and adding: 'The villages will still remain closed on Monday and we will be offering a discount for the lack of facilities available on that day.'

Many affected customers expressed their anger on the Center Parcs Facebook page. One, from a party of six, posted: 'What the hell are we supposed to do????!!'

JJ given royal approval for his 'fantastic' dancing



Praise: JJ Chalmers on Strictly BBC/PA

A FORMER senior clergyman has recalled receiving a handwritten letter from the Queen after she watched his son dancing 'fantastically' on Strictly Come Dancing.

The Queen wrote to the Very Reverend Dr John Chalmers after watching his son JJ Chalmers - a former Royal Marine who suffered severe injuries in Afghanistan - on the popular BBC show.

The Rev Chalmers, a former moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, said: 'When she realised JJ was ... on Strictly, she penned a handwritten letter reflecting on how "fantastically" he had danced and how glad she was that "his life had changed so much".'



Quiet and patient, they waited hours to pay respects to Queen at cathedral

by DANIEL BINNS

THEY camped overnight in their thousands as they formed a mile-long queue to say farewell to their Queen.

Around 33,000 people waited in line, patiently and quietly, before filing past the late monarch's oak coffin at St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh.

Many were wearing winter jackets, scarves and woollen hats to keep warm.

'We were desperate to be here to show our respects,' said Will Brehme, who arrived in the early hours with his partner and 20-month-old daughter sleeping in a baby carrier.

'It is a moment that will live with us for ever. When you think that she worked all of her life for us it is the least we could do,' he added.

The flag-draped coffin had been carried along the Royal Mile from the Palace of Holyroodhouse on Monday in a military procession to the cathedral led by King Charles III and siblings



At rest: Coffin at St Giles' REX

Anne, Andrew and Edward. There, they briefly stood vigil, their heads bowed.

One woman said she had visited the coffin at least seven times. Elizabeth Sabey, 43, a missionary from the Isle of Lewis, started queueing at 5pm on Monday, rejoining it each time she came

out. She told the BBC: 'It's beautiful when you enter into the cathedral... the atmosphere, the presence, there's definitely something of the divine there.'

'I feel deeply moved every time so I've gone back again and again.'

Corey Burgher, 44, began queueing with stepdaughter Giovanna Giambastiani, 24, at 2.30am. He said: 'We wanted to say our goodbyes to the boss. I'm in the military, I work on submarines. I was surprised how much the news hit me. I didn't know her personally, but I met her when I was a kid.'

Dawn Legge, from Manchester, said: 'I needed to come. We needed to pay our respects and mourn our Queen before we want to celebrate our King.'

Catherine Gray, from London, said seeing the coffin was 'one of the most emotional moments of my life'.

Seven visits: Elizabeth Sabey felt deeply moved BBC



Queue gardens: Hours-long wait in the Meadows to file past coffin
PICTURE: GETTY

1926-2022 Elizabeth II



A city in mourning: Well-wishers wait in line in George Square Gardens, Edinburgh, to pay their respects, while (below) queues snake through the city en route to St Giles' Cathedral
GETTY/ALAMY



Corgi registers: The King spots a dog owner at Hillsborough Castle
JASON CAIRN/REUTERS

We felt your sorrows, Northern Ireland told

THE King vowed to 'seek the welfare' of all Northern Ireland's inhabitants and described how his family have felt their sorrows.

Charles, who in 2015 made a pilgrimage to the site of his great-uncle Lord Mountbatten's murder in an IRA bombing, said the Queen had 'never ceased to pray for the best of times for this place and its people'.

Speaking at Hillsborough Castle in Co. Down yesterday, he added that his mother was aware of her position in bringing together divided communities who history had separated.

A momentous step forward in Anglo-Irish relations came in 2012 when the Queen shook hands with Martin McGuinness, the then-deputy first minister of Northern Ireland and a former IRA commander.

Meeting the King at Hillsborough, Sinn Féin vice president Michelle O'Neill said of the Queen: 'She led by example in advancing peace and reconciliation and the building of relationships with those of us who are Irish and who share a different political allegiance and aspirations to herself and her government.'

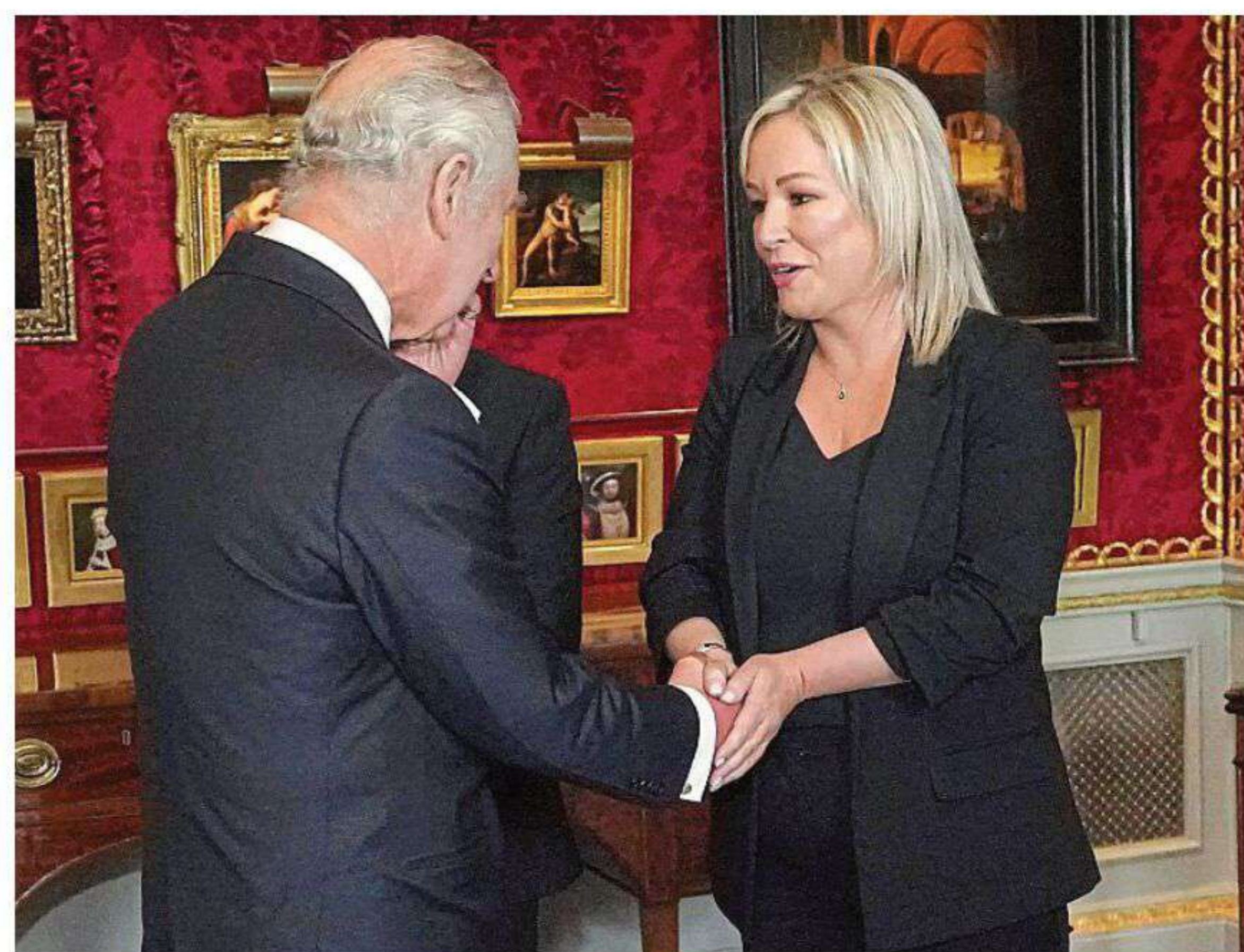
The King and Queen Consort went on a walkabout when they arrived at



Tributes: The King and Queen Consort inspect bouquets at the castle
AFP

the castle, shaking hands with some in the crowd - which included a dog owner who held up their corgi to snuggle up to Charles.

Later, he shook hands with the president of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, following a memorial service at St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast.



Shaking hands: The King meets Sinn Féin's Michelle O'Neill
NIALL CARSON/POOL/AFP

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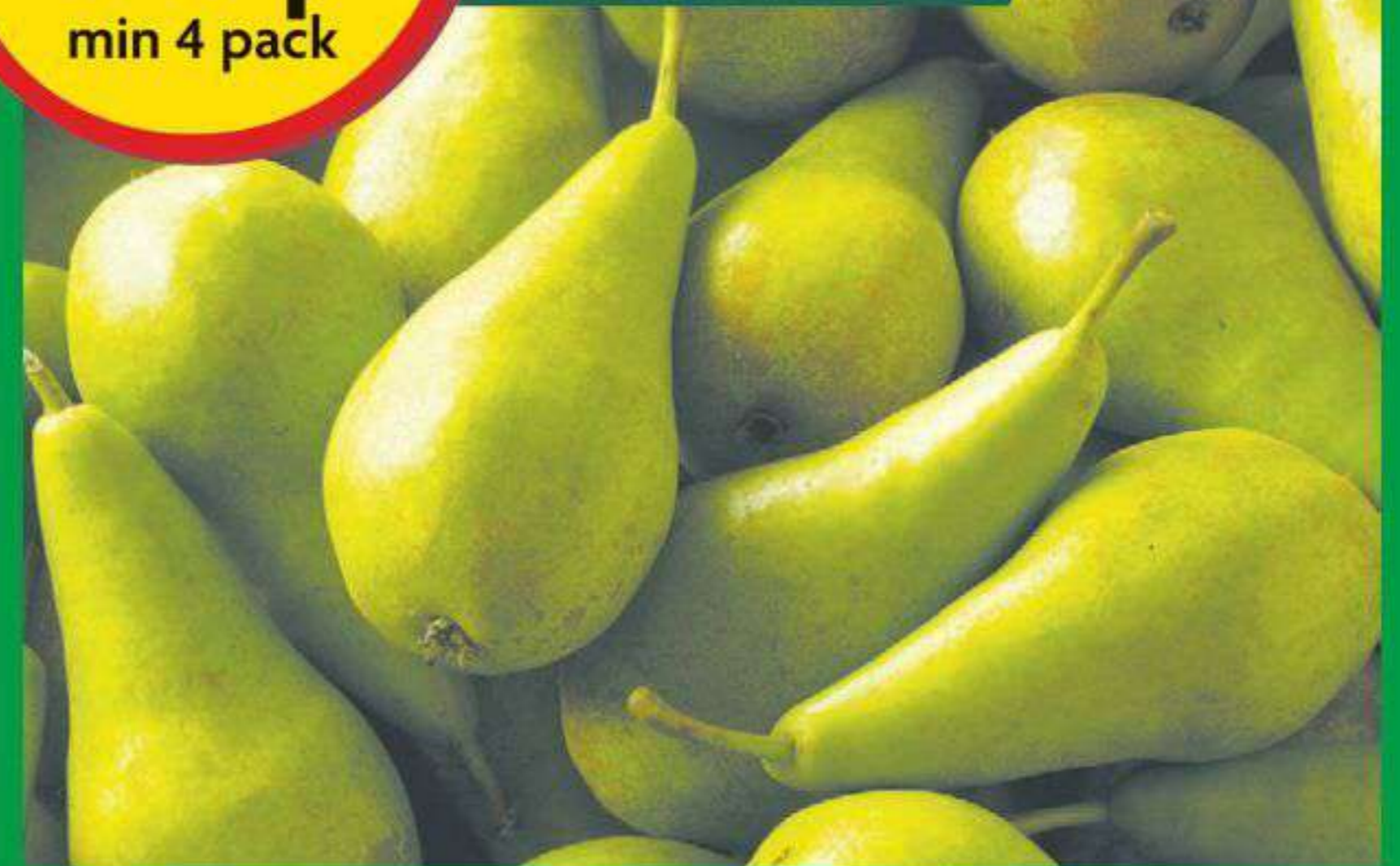
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1926-2022  Elizabeth II

GETTING IT RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

SOLDIERS PRACTISE PROCESSION AT 3AM



Dawn walk:
Big Ben
shows the
early hour as
soldiers file
past PA



Rehearsal: Troops march from
Buckingham Palace to the
Palace of Westminster GETTY

THOUSANDS of soldiers in ceremonial uniform gathered early yesterday to rehearse the procession that will bring the Queen's coffin to Westminster Hall today.

After arriving in London from Scotland yesterday, the coffin was placed in the Bow Room at Buckingham Palace overnight before being taken to lie in state at Westminster later today ahead of Monday's funeral.

During the practice session, which began at 3am, the horse-drawn carriage of the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery was led along the route in central London.

A black coffin was placed on the gun carriage and, at around 4am, seven horses pulled it along Queen's Gardens, The Mall, Whitehall, Parliament Street, Parliament Square and New Palace Yard. Many streets were sealed off for the operation

by JOEL TAYLOR

- a full rehearsal for the actual event due to start at 2.22pm and finish at 3pm.

King Charles III, members of the royal family and senior staff of the Queen and King's households are expected to walk behind the coffin.

Maj Gen Christopher Ghika, of the Household Division, said: 'For everybody on parade, it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It's a very sad day but it's our last opportunity to do our duty for the Queen and it's our first opportunity to do it for the King, and that makes us all very proud.'

Sgt Tom Jenks, from the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, said the horses have had special training to prepare them for the event, with exposure to 'loud noises, crowds, flags, flowers and people sobbing'.



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LEON NEAL/ GETTY

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Elizabeth II 1926-2022

Fans hail stars' toast in the Vic

EASTENDERS has been praised for its touching tribute to the Queen.

Monday's episode opened with a framed photo of the monarch on the Queen Vic bar as stars raised a toast.

'God bless her, she's been there our whole lives,' begins landlady Linda Carter (Kellie Bright), to which Kathy Beale (Gillian Telford) replies: 'Just feels so personal though, doesn't it?' Denise Fox (Diane Parish) says, 'it's like we've lost our gran', as Kathy adds: 'She made you feel so joyful and safe.'

Viewers described the BBC soap's pre-credits moment as a lovely tribute and genuinely moving.



Gawd bless 'er: Viewers were moved by EastEnders' salute to late monarch BBC

Succession's Jesse has dig at monarchy



Roy(al) family: Jesse (holding Emmy) with Succession team NBC/BACKGRID

THE creator of TV's Succession, Jesse Armstrong, courted controversy when he took aim at King Charles during the Emmy Awards.

The British writer's potshot came as he collected the prize for outstanding drama on Monday night.

Joined on stage by the show's cast, including Brian Cox, he began: 'Big week for successions. New King in the UK, this for us. Evidently, a little bit more voting in our winning than Prince Charles.'

His comment prompted gasps from the audience in LA, with Cox advising him to 'keep it royalist, keep it royalist'.

Armstrong, 51, who also penned barbed political comedies The Thick Of It and In The Loop, continued: 'No, I mean, I'm not

by TOM STICHBURY

saying we're more legitimate in our position than he is - we'll leave that to other people.'

Scottish-born Cox, 76, who plays media mogul Logan Roy in the hit drama, quipped: 'Delicate balance.' Some social media users labelled Armstrong's remark 'stupid' and 'obscene'.

The series won four gongs, notably best supporting actor for Britain's Matthew Macfadyen, 47. Beating co-stars Nicholas Braun and Kieran Culkin, he dedicated the Emmy to his wife, actress Keeley Hawes. Calling it a 'bonkers gift of a role', he added: 'My darling Keeley, I'm very lucky to have you.'

Queen's death hit me hard, says Ted Lasso's Hannah

TED LASSO star Hannah Waddingham paid tribute to King Charles as she admitted she was 'deeply upset' by the Queen's death.

Speaking on the red carpet at the Emmys, the British actress described her reaction to last week's announcement from Buckingham Palace.

Hannah (pictured), told Variety: 'It makes me emotional to think about it. I was upset at how deeply upset I was. I

watched it all night until I couldn't keep my eyes open.

'It is like a grandmother dying. It hit me far worse than I thought it would, and the enormous pressure that our King has on his shoulders now. He will rise to it

immeasurably but I feel for him.' Hannah, 48, was beaten to an Emmy by Abbott Elementary's Sheryl Lee Ralph. But Ted Lasso won outstanding comedy while star Jason Sudeikis was best actor in a comedy.



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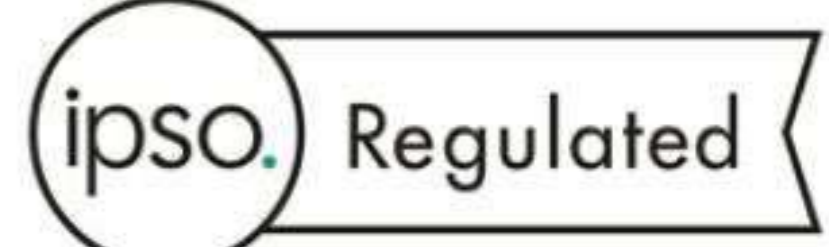
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MP Davis contacts police chief over arrests 'concern'

Action: Protesters hold a blank canvas outside St Giles' Cathedral as people queued to view the Queen's coffin

by STEPHEN DEAL

LEADING politicians have raised free speech concerns amid the arrests of anti-monarchy protesters in Edinburgh.

Conservative MP David Davis has written to Scotland's Ch Con Sir Iain Livingstone after a 22-year-old woman was arrested in connection with a breach of the peace during the accession proclamation for the King outside the city's St Giles' Cathedral on Sunday.

Following his letter, another alleged protester, a 22-year-old man, was arrested on the Royal Mile as footage appeared to show him heckling the royal procession. Both have subse-



Concerns: Mr Davis and Ms Cherry frequently been charged. In his letter, written on Monday, Mr Davis said: 'With the accession of our new monarch, I would hope that the police will continue to respect the right to

free speech. If the individual concerned committed acts of violence, or the police had reason to believe she would, then action was necessary.

'But if the individual was simply stating an opinion, I trust you agree that a liberal approach would be desirable.'

After learning of a second arrest in Scotland, he tweeted yesterday: 'I am a staunch monarchist but republicans have as much right to voice their opinions as anyone else.'

A Police Scotland spokesperson said: 'We've received correspondence and the content is noted.'

SNP MP and King's Counsel Joanna Cherry also raised concern over the

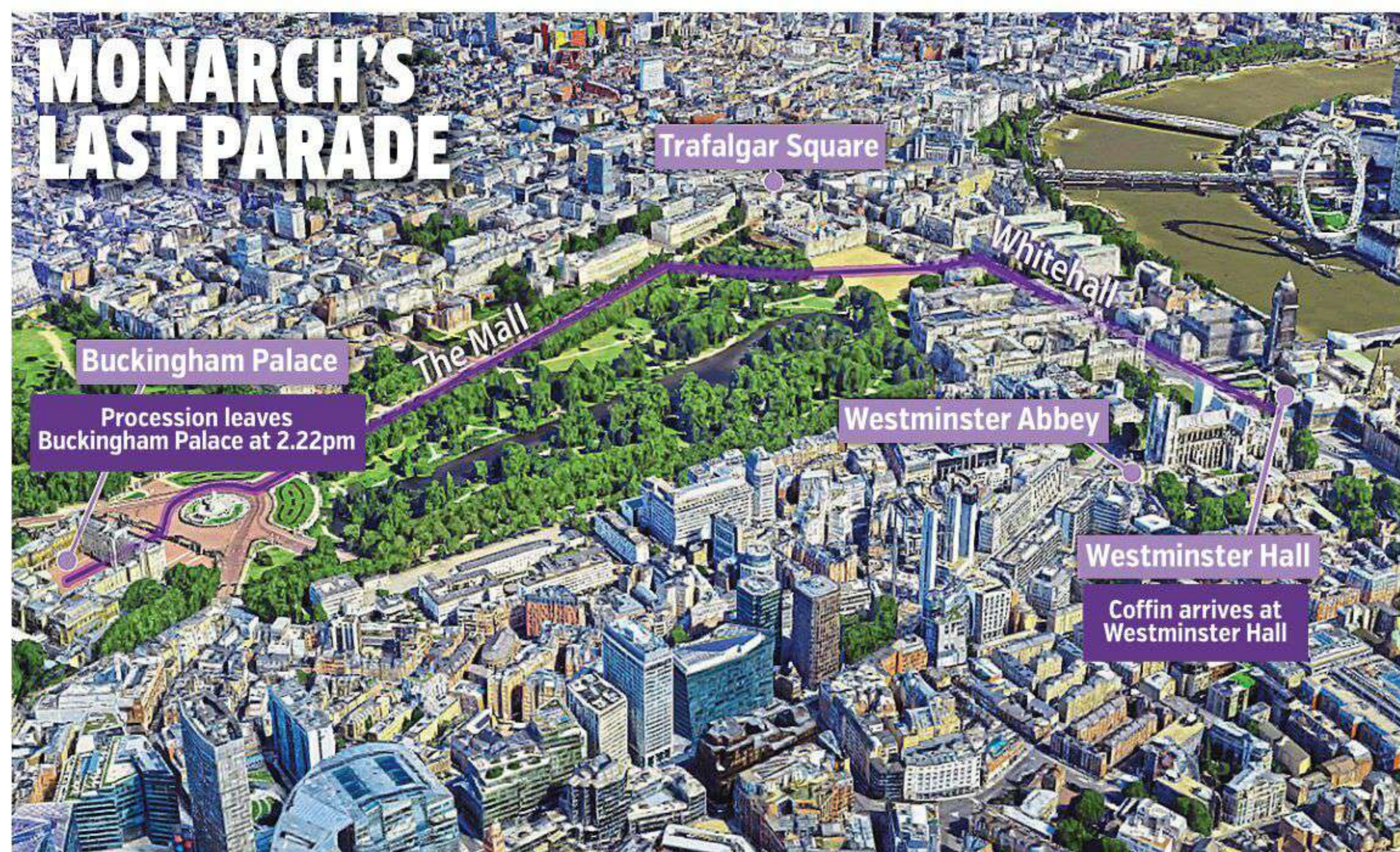
arrests. 'Whilst many might question whether this is an appropriate time for such protests, the right to protest is fundamental to our democracy and should be facilitated,' she said.

Protesters held blank canvases outside St Giles' Cathedral yesterday in response to the arrests. One protester Douglas Rogers, 27, said: 'We live in a free society. We have to be able to disagree with each other, as long as it's in a peaceful way.'

The National Police Chiefs' Council said guidance has been issued to forces 'on how they should balance the right to protest against those who wish to grieve'.



Arrest: Scuffle as man is held by cop



Mourners face five-mile queue to join lying-in-state ceremony

THE opening of the Queen's lying-in-state will take place this afternoon after the monarch's coffin is paraded through the streets of London.

Despite forecasts of heavy rain, huge crowds of mourners are expected to gather in the capital for the historic ceremony.

The procession will leave Buckingham Palace at 2.22pm, before travelling along The Mall and Horse Guards Parade. It will continue along Whitehall and Downing Street before stopping at Westminster Hall, where the lying-in-state begins at 5pm.

Long queues, with waiting times of up to 30 hours, look certain to develop.

Although the public were advised not to arrive early, Vanessa Nanthakumaran, 56, began queuing at noon on Monday. She was joined yesterday by fellow Londoner Grace Gothard and 65-year-old Anne, who did not

want to give her last name, from Cardiff. The queue, when at maximum capacity, will start five miles away at Southwark Park and wind along the bank of the Thames, cross Lambeth Bridge and loop back to Westminster Hall.

A separate, and shorter, queue for people with accessibility issues will start from outside Tate Britain. More than 1,000 stewards and police will patrol the queues.

During the lying-in-state, the Queen's coffin will be draped in the Royal Standard flag with the Orb and Sceptre placed on top. It will be guarded by units from the Sovereign's Bodyguard, the Household Division and Yeoman Warders of the Tower of London.

Meanwhile, police warned that tents, sleeping bags and gazebos are banned and could be confiscated. One group of campers on The Mall yesterday were ordered to pack up their equipment.



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IN BRIEF

Murder trial accused blames victim's estranged husband for double killing

THE man accused of killing Renee MacRae and their son in 1976 has blamed her estranged husband, along with others, for the crime, a court has heard.

William MacDowell, of Penrith, Cumbria, is accused of murdering the 36-year-old and their son Andrew, three.

The High Court in Inverness was yesterday told the 80-year-old denies the charges and has lodged a special defence of incrimination

and alibi. The jury heard he was not at the scene of the alleged murder on November 12, 1976, and spent the night at home.

The defence claims Gordon MacRae together with persons unknown committed the offences. MacDowell is charged with murdering Ms MacRae and their son at a layby on the A9 near Inverness, or elsewhere. He is also charged with disposing of their bodies. The trial continues.



Victims:
Renee and
Andrew
MacRae PA



Beaumont's bid to reclaim NC500 cycle record focus of documentary

ROUND-THE-WORLD cyclist Mark Beaumont is to attempt to win back his North Coast 500 bike record. Beaumont, 39, will challenge himself to complete the 500-mile circuit in less than 29 hours – six hours faster than when he set the record in 2015.

The current record for the route in the north of Scotland stands at 29hrs and 6mins, set by Robbie Mitchell in 2019. Beaumont's attempt will be filmed for a documentary to be released later in the year.

'I've watched in awe and with interest as the record I set in 2015 has been broken time and again,' the cyclist [right] said. 'I love seeing that.'



Football star cleared of rape charge

FOOTBALL star Benjamin Mendy has been found not guilty of one count of rape on the direction of a judge at his trial.

The Manchester City player, 28, (left) was cleared of the rape of a 19-year-old woman after prosecutors offered no further evidence.

But the French World Cup winner still faces a further seven counts of rape, one of attempted rape and a sexual assault against six women.

Co-accused Louis Saha Matturie was also found not guilty of two counts of rape and one of sexual assault against the same woman.

The 41-year-old remains on trial at Chester Crown Court for six counts of rape and three of sexual assault against seven women. Both men deny all the charges.

Judge Stephen Everett warned jurors not to speculate on why prosecutors decided not to pursue the charges concerned. The trial continues.

Only September... but migrant boat numbers beat 2021 total

MORE migrants have crossed the Channel to reach the UK so far this year than the whole of 2021, new data shows.

A total of 601 arrived on Monday in 19 boats, making 28,561 this year, the Ministry of Defence said. Last year, 28,526 arrived – and by this time a year ago the figure was just under 14,500.

The MoD detected 3,518 crossings so far this month. The highest daily total was 1,295 in 27 boats on August 22. In 2018, just

299 were detected all year. In April, then-home secretary Priti Patel announced plans to deter crossings and curb people traffickers by sending migrants who arrive illegally to Rwanda to be processed.

But the first deportation flight on June 14 was halted after a legal fight, and Ms Patel quit when Liz Truss replaced Boris Johnson as prime minister this month.

Show us tragic video, plead Chris Kaba's family



THE family of Chris Kaba have asked to view video footage of his final moments, following the suspension of the firearms officer who fatally shot him. Mr Kaba (pictured), 24, who was unarmed, was killed on September 5 following a police pursuit in Streatham Hill, south London. His cousin Jefferson Bosela said the family wanted 'a clear understanding'.

IVF murder dad is facing life sentence

A MAN who strangled his wife six months after she had their IVF baby has admitted her murder.

Teacher Abi Fisher (on their wedding day, right), 29, vanished in July. Police found her in undergrowth 12 miles away during a major search as her husband appealed for clues.

Matthew Fisher, 29 – arrested days later – pleaded guilty via video link at Leeds Crown Court. Judge Tom Bayliss told him: 'The sentence will be life imprisonment, come what may.' He will be sentenced on November 10 after a medical report.



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Covid shame MP Ferrier is ordered to do unpaid work

by STEPHEN DEAL

AN MP who 'wilfully ignored' Covid rules and travelled by train from London to Scotland after testing positive has been ordered to complete a 270-hour community payback order.

Margaret Ferrier, who was the SNP MP for Rutherglen and Hamilton West at the time of the incident, was told the sentence was a direct alternative to custody and that she will need to carry out the unpaid work within nine months.

Ferrier, 62, last month admitted culpably and recklessly exposing the public 'to the risk of infection, illness and death' as a result of her behaviour.

Imposing the order when she returned to Glasgow sheriff court for sentencing yesterday, Sheriff Principal Craig Turnbull told the MP: 'The public rightly expect the people elected to represent them to set an example.'

'You wilfully ignored the rules and did not isolate. Having tested positive you wilfully disregarded guidance and travelled by train.'

During the hearing last month, the court heard that Ferrier, of Cambuslang, South Lanarkshire, did a test for Covid-19 on September 26 after showing symptoms.

The next day she read to a congregation of about 45 people at a mass in St Mungo's Church, Glasgow, before heading to Vic's bar in Prestwick, South Ayrshire.

She then travelled to London by train on September 28 and spoke in the Commons later that day. A short time after, she found out she had



Pressure to resign: Margaret Ferrier was an SNP MP at the time of breaking coronavirus rules in 2020 PA

tested positive for the virus. Ferrier then spent the night at her hotel before heading back to London Euston and taking the train home to Glasgow, knowing she had Covid-19.

Defence lawyer Brian McCannachie KC said Ferrier had continued as normal following her Covid test because she was sure it would be negative, as she felt better the next day.

However, he said the MP experienced 'uncontrolled panic' when her test came back positive and returned to Glasgow to isolate.

He said that his client feels remorse for her actions. Wearing a face mask, she left court without commenting.

Ferrier had the SNP whip removed in 2020 and has come under pressure to resign her seat in the Commons.

METRO BITES

■ A WOMAN stranded on a rock by the incoming tide has been rescued by a lifeboat. She was spotted in difficulty off Gypsy Brae in Edinburgh at 1pm yesterday. South Queensferry RNLi found her thigh deep in water 200 metres offshore. She did not need medical attention.

■ UNEMPLOYMENT has fallen to a record low in Scotland. Latest Office for National Statistics figures show the jobless rate was 3.1 per cent between May and July - the lowest level since records began in 1992. The latest UK unemployment rate was 3.6 per cent.

■ THE first-ever Fantastic Four comic has sold for £246,000 in Dallas, Texas. Stan Lee's 1961 creation was a huge commercial success and launched the 'Marvel age', said auctioneer Barry Sandoval. 'It created the formula for their other superheroes,' he added.



Habitat Nomad Desk

Posh Cayenne! Duke's £132k car to be seized over unpaid instalments

A £132,000 Porsche bought by the Duke of Marlborough - who owns 187-room Blenheim Palace - can be seized because he defaulted on payments for it, a judge has ruled.

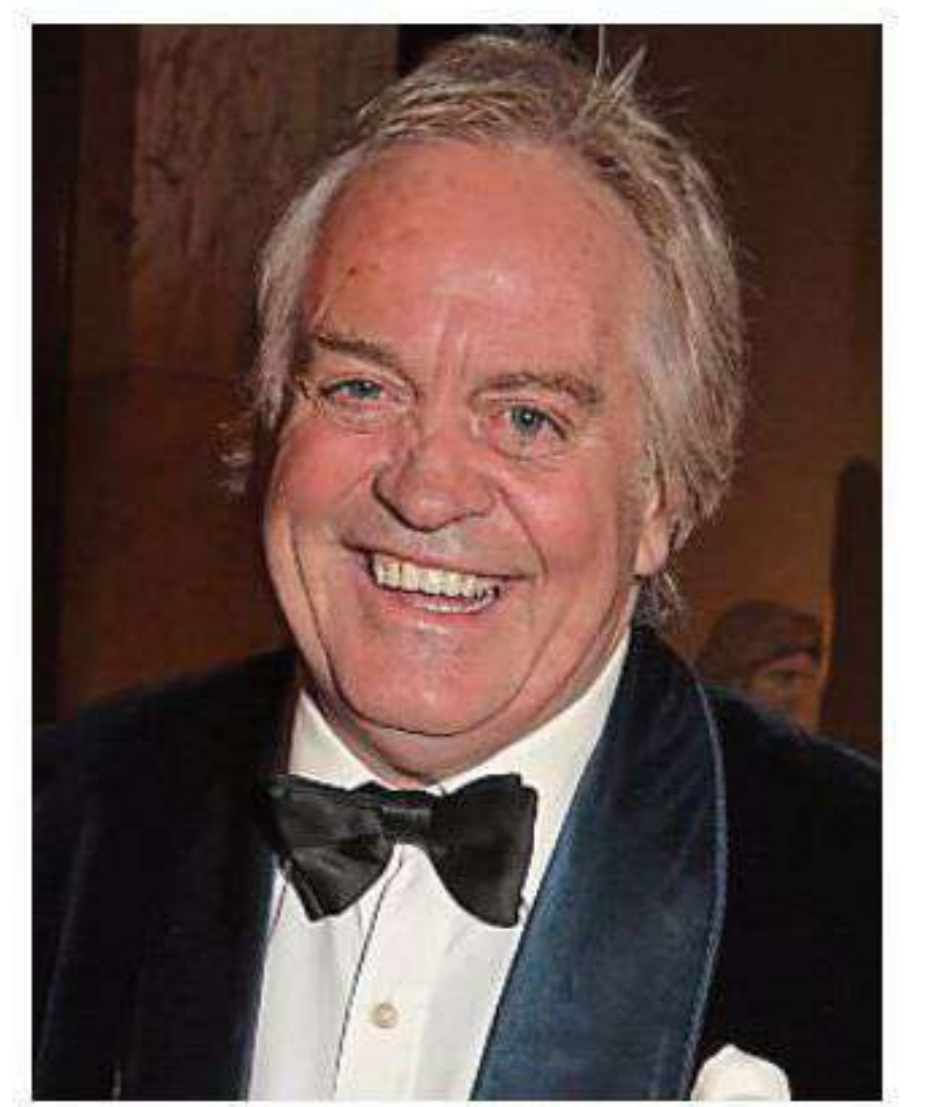
The duke - named in papers as Charles Spencer-Churchill - paid £68,000 to VW Financial Services for the top-of-the-range Cayenne EST Turbo Tip S car in July 2018.

But the lender said a default notice was served last September over unpaid instalments, court papers revealed, adding: 'The agreement was then effectively terminated in November.'

Solicitors wrote to him in February 'demanding that he return the Porsche. The defendant has refused and/or failed to do so,' the firm said.

County court judge Richard Lumb ruled the firm could recover the Porsche and ordered the duke to pay £602 in costs.

The duke, 66 - who as Jamie Blandford had spells in jail linked to drug addiction and driving offences in the past - did not comment. Baroque masterpiece Blenheim is the birthplace of his relative Sir Winston Churchill.



Recovered: Duke DAVE BENNET

Crying baby? Try a five-minute walk



On the bawl: Walking a baby

A FIVE-minute walk is the key to getting a crying baby back to sleep, according to new research.

Scientists at the Riken Center for Brain Science in Tokyo found distressed mouse pups and human infants calm down when carried by their mothers.

In experiments involving 21 infants, the effect was more evident when the holding and walking lasted for five minutes.

All babies stopped crying - and nearly half of them fell asleep.

Dr Kumi Kuroda, lead author of the study published in Current Biology, said: 'Walking for five minutes promoted sleep - but only for crying infants. This effect was absent when babies were already calm.' Now the researchers are developing an app which will alert parents to when they should pick up their baby.

Activist is jailed for insult to Thai Queen

AN ACTIVIST in Thailand has been jailed for two years after a court ruled she had dressed as Queen Suthida during a street protest.

Jatuporn 'New' Saeoueng, 25, was found guilty of intentionally mocking the royal family, despite her argument that she always wears traditional Thai dress.

It is a crime in Thailand to defame or insult the king, queen, heir or regent, with

punishments of up to 15 years in prison under what are among the world's strictest 'lese majeste' laws.

Saeoueng, who wore a pink dress at a Bangkok rally in 2020, is one of at least 210 activists who have been charged with royal insult in the last two years, after protests calling for reform of the powerful monarchy, said legal aid group Thai Lawyers for Human Rights.

Regal look: Saeoueng on red carpet



New Wave pioneer Godard dies



'Genius': Godard with Dymon GETTY

JEAN-LUC GODARD, an icon of the French New Wave, has died in Switzerland aged 91.

French president Emmanuel Macron said of the director, best-known for 1960's *Breathless*: 'We have lost a national treasure, the eye of a genius.'

Godard defied convention over a long career that began in the 1950s as a film critic.

He rejected conventional narrative in favour of jump-cuts mingling philosophy with action.

He also made the Rolling Stones documentary *Sympathy For The Devil*, featuring actor Frankie Dymon. Directors who cited Godard as an influence include Quentin Tarantino and Brian De Palma.

Ukraine retakes land 'all way to Russian border'

UKRAINE'S forces continued to pile pressure on retreating Russian troops yesterday after a rapid counter-offensive that has seemingly left Moscow's military strategy in tatters.

Kyiv claimed its week-long fightback has seen it regain control of towns all the way to the Russian border in the north-east of the country.

In his nightly address on Monday, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky said: 'From the beginning of September until today, our soldiers have liberated more than 6,000sq km (3,700sq miles) of territory in the east and south. The movement of our troops continues.'

This would mean his forces have tripled the retaken area in just three days - though this has not been verified.

The counter-attack produced major territorial gains in Kharkiv as Ukraine bids to wrest back control of almost all the region. Yellow-

by ELENA BECATOROS

and-blue flags fluttered from the tallest buildings left in partly destroyed towns around the city of Kharkiv, while soldiers inspected burnt-out Russian tanks.

British intelligence said that one of Moscow's premier forces, the 1st Guards Tank Army, had been 'severely degraded' during the invasion and that Russia's conventional force designed to counter Nato was severely weakened.

Rebuilding this capability 'could take years', it added. But the retreat did not stop Russia from pounding Ukrainian positions. Early yesterday, it shelled the city of Lozova in the Kharkiv region, killing three people and injuring nine, said regional governor Oleh Syniehubov.

Fightback: A

Ukrainian soldier stands on tank in Kharkiv region AP



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WORLD BITES

■ MORE than 500 people fled their homes as wildfires raged in south-west France. Some 2,500 acres of land in the Gironde region were destroyed as temperatures hit a record 39.1C on Monday. A smaller fire burned south of Bordeaux, near Dax. Strong winds are hampering efforts to bring the blazes under control, said fire chiefs.

■ A MAN who kept a wild kangaroo as a pet has been killed by the animal in Western Australia. A relative found the 77-year-old with serious injuries after he was attacked at his semi-rural home, 250 miles from Perth. It was the country's first fatal attack by a kangaroo since 1936. Police later shot the animal dead.

■ A RECORD 700kg haul of heroin has been seized at Hamburg port in Germany. The shipment entered the country from Iran. Five men, aged 35 to 54, were arrested after police raided homes across the country and in the Netherlands. Interior minister Nancy Faeser said the capture was a 'heavy blow' to international drug trafficking.

Elizabeth II 1926-2022

METROTALK

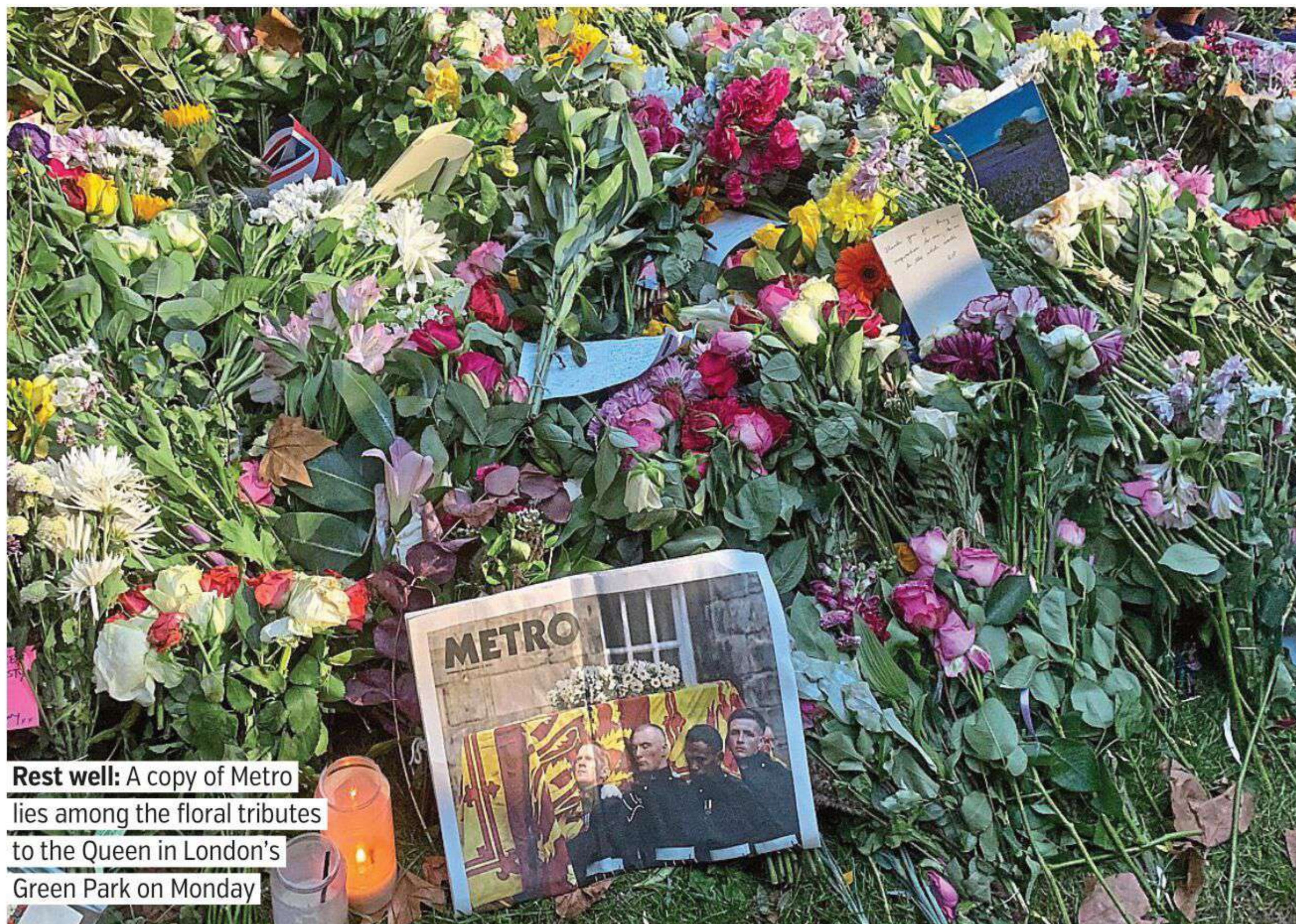
■ Dad was blacksmith at Balmoral and shod her horses. I always remember the Queen coming into the 'smiddy', soaked to the skin and asking Dad about some horse. RIP.
Bert and Lorna

■ I was greatly honoured and have a very dear memory of meeting the Queen as a child on her 2002 Golden Jubilee tour of the United Kingdom. A very lovely policeman lifted me over the barrier and took me to meet the Queen, where I was able to give her a Queen Elizabeth rose. It is a memory that has never left me. Rest in peace, Your Majesty. Your duty is done. Rest well and reunite with your 'strength and stay'.
Adelaide Jasper

■ Madam Queen Elizabeth II, I am honoured to have lived in your beautiful country and to have worked for a company there that made tyres for Your Majesty's own private automobiles. Such a tiny, trivial thing to some, but it's my only connection to someone so great in the world. May you rest in sweet peace. God bless.
Dawn Wang

■ Sleep tight, Ma'am. This day was inevitably going to come but still the news came as a huge shock. Thank you for your loyalty and service. Your love for this country was always clear to see and I hope you know it was returned tenfold. My greatest appreciation for you came when I was a guest at one of your garden parties - meeting you was surreal. You were so warm, noticed my nerves and put me at ease - and I will never forget your cheeky smile! You did us proud. Thank you and goodnight. RIP.
Jonathan

■ I had the privilege of working at Buckingham Palace for the Royal Household for nine years and retired only four months before the passing of our beloved Queen. I was able to meet her on a number of occasions at our annual Christmas parties. She was beautiful and put me at ease immediately. My condolences go out to all the royal family. She will be



Rest well: A copy of Metro lies among the floral tributes to the Queen in London's Green Park on Monday

Soaked to the skin, she'd come in and talk horses

sorely missed. Her values and her grace will stay with me forever.
Katerina Whitehead

■ I remember the Queen's visits to Australia - and on some occasions I got to see her. The Queen showed us how to tolerate others. How to act - as in professionalism - and what resilience looks like. I think about the things she had done and seen, and the people she met. I am glad that she will

be with her beloved hubby now. Yes, grief is the price we pay for love. May you rest in peace - and farewell, my beloved Queen. From Caboolture, Queensland, Australia.
Janelle Macpherson

■ Everyone says 'It's my life' and 'I can do as I please'. For you, that was never the case. You gave your life away and never did as you pleased but rather always lived and did what was

expected of you as Queen. I do not know how peaceful your life truly was but now may you rest in peace and enjoy heaven with your family.
Taneez

■ On behalf of my mother, Alynda Randle, who survived the Battle of Britain after getting bombed out of her house; my uncle, William Randle, who flew as a group captain over Germany during World War II; my

uncle, Peter Randle, who served in the Royal Navy during World War II; my grandfather, Thomas Randle, who served as a sergeant in both world wars; and my aunt, Zonora Randle, who served as a nurse during World War II. I am certain that if they were alive today, they would immensely thank you. God bless.
Louis Martin Leiggi

■ I saw you as a young child when you held state banquets at Claridge's as my dad was head chef and, even though French, was a massive royalist. You emerged from your car dressed in a full-length ivory-white bejewelled gown, long white satin gloves and a diamond tiara. You were the most beautiful lady I'd ever seen, as you seemed to glide down the red carpet into the hotel. God bless you, rest in peace with your beloved Philip. Thank you for your unwavering service.
Laurette Rolland

■ I was born in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1946 as the son of a Maltese father who was recently in the British Army. I remember, at the tender age of seven, listening to the coronation broadcast on our radio and later being given a commemorative tin box of memorabilia with a photograph of the

new Queen on the lid, as a gift from the British embassy. Rest in peace, Your Majesty. From a devoted royalist.
Joseph Francis Aloyis Spiteri

■ We met many years ago when you borrowed from a friend of mine, Captain Gordon Curson, a broodmare called Parrot Fashion. You were very kind to me as I was a complete novice around horses. May you rest in peace - you of all people deserve it. Thank

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PAYS TRIBUTE

you for your service to the country that I love so much.

Chris Tracey

■ I'm proud to have served Her Majesty for 25 years in the Army. Prince Philip was my colonel-in-chief and HM was affectionately known as 'the Boss'. She made me proud to be British. Wherever I travelled, she was regarded in the highest esteem – no more so than when I served with the Gurkhas. Their pride in the Queen's uniform was palpable. I will miss the wonderful smile, the twinkle in the eyes and the aura of majesty, dignity, magic – call it what you will. I will miss her. God save the King.

Sidney Macmillan

■ I remember shaking the Queen's hand as a girl guide in Jamaica for an inspection parade. I felt so honoured as she gracefully smiled and nodded at me. RIP, Your Majesty Queen Elizabeth. Much love and respect. You are an excellent role model of a woman.

Lavrene Walker

■ Thank you for everything you did for us. Your loyal, dedicated, never-failing commitment to us all in Britain and around the world. You are so loved and respected. Now you are with your dear husband, family and God. We remember you so fondly at the New Forest Show on walkabout. A baking-hot day. You walked for two-and-a-half hours in the heat, visiting and greeting everyone, in your nineties. What an amazing feat. We will never forget that day. Thank you again and God bless you.

Graham and Wendy Hoare

■ I remember when she visited Uganda in 2007 – it was such an honour. May her soul rest in peace. All that she has done for the United Kingdom will be greatly remembered. I appreciate all the development and the peace that has been in that country. I greatly appreciate her for all that she has done during her reign. She has lived a life of being exemplary. I also appreciate her being non-segregative and non-racist. She has always inspired all generations that she has been in. May God be with you.

Kato Henry

■ My first memory of the Queen was as a seven-year-old schoolchild. It was her first visit to Australia as Queen. Thousands of us gathered at the Exhibition Ground in the hot sun to see her pass fleetingly by. She has been a constant in all our lives and it is with great sadness that we witness her passing. Whatever the future has in store, she will remain a towering presence in Australia's history.

Paul Sawtell

■ Very emotional on hearing of the Queen's peaceful passing. Only once we met her and Prince Philip – it was during their walkabout after Sunday service at Windsor on the weekend of the Golden Jubilee. We were standing at the front and, as they walked past, the Queen looked straight at us and Prince Philip said to my husband – as it was a hot day and us being tourists, we were dressed casually and my husband wore shorts – 'Expecting good



Head slightly bowed, King Charles keeps vigil in front of the Queen's coffin in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, last night, joined by his siblings the Princess Royal, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward. PICTURES: JAMES WATSON

Son and heir: Yesterday's Metro showing King Charles III at his mother's coffin

weather, are we?' My husband replied, 'We can but hope, sir.'

Marilyn and Mike Bevan

■ I live in Surrey and I am an NHS worker. I have seen her smiling face at Epsom Hospital and she always made time to speak to us as she did her tour around the hospital. She will be sadly missed. But I look forward to many visits from our new king, Charles III.

Patricia Cahill

■ I was 11 when Mr South, the headmaster of my primary school in St Mary Cray, unexpectedly came into our classroom on February 6, 1952. He sombrely announced that King George VI had died. I remember even then realising that it was a very serious moment for everyone in the country. So much has changed in the world and here since those times, but 'our' Queen was always a constant, through good times and bad. I truly hope Charles can keep HMS GB on as good a course.

Marianne Allen, née Peckham

■ Her Majesty rose to the near-impossible task of stewarding the monarchy into a new age. An age of rapid change. An age where so many traditions and values fell by the wayside, yet she held fast. She did so under the most difficult of circumstances. Her grace and strength

made us all better, stronger. Her Majesty set a standard that may never be equalled. Her passing leaves an unfathomable void. May flights of angels sing her to her rest.

Ryan B Hicks

■ Since the age of seven in 1974, when I first made my brownie-guide promise that included the words 'I promise that I will serve the Queen', I have admired and looked up to you. What a role model you have been to so many generations. Not only mine and my children's generations – you were my great nan's Queen, my nan's Queen, my mum's Queen, too. My grandfather told us all so many stories about you, as he was the chairman of the Royal British Legion. Such a role model and one of a kind,

Roberta Jerram

■ My deepest condolences to the Queen's family at this sad time. As a former Hong Kong resident who lived in both pre- and post-1997 handover, and now resident back in the country of my birth, I feel honoured to have seen the great respect and love held for Her Majesty by so many people – irrespective of race, colour, gender or political opinion. She stood above it all and represented all that is good in humanity.

Sarah Tucker

■ Your Majesty, thank you for the honour bestowed upon me of serving you and my country in the police force for 35 years. I am hugely proud of my service and would like to thank you for your unfaltering service and support for us in our line of duty. Your work is done here on Earth and we will never forget you. God Bless and rest well, Ma'am.

David Norris

■ One helluva lady. King Charles III has a lot to live up to but he had the perfect mentor in his mother, not forgetting his father, in which to base his reign. Couldn't have made us more proud to be British. Sadly missed.

Robert Waight

■ I remember when I was a child of 11 living in Halifax – we heard she was to visit Halifax. We thought no more about it until I heard she was going to be coming up Grove Avenue, where I lived. On her journey to Ovenden Way, I remember the car slowing down and I saw her face. She waved at us and was wearing a coat and hat in a beautiful shade of orange. God bless our Queen. Hoping she is now reunited in death with Prince Philip.

Elaine Mitchell

■ It is with a sad heart that we post this. Queen Elizabeth II was the most warming and considerate lady to all who had the privilege of meeting her. My husband had the privilege many times while serving her country in the Army in the Duke of Wellington Rgt. I saw the Queen and her husband when they came to Gillingham. We lined the street waving the Union Flag when she was coronated. She will always be in our hearts and memories. She always showed love to her family and the Commonwealth.

Mr and Mrs Underwood

■ I met you in Chelsea Barracks in the '70s. It was nice when we had that



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chat about horses and racing. You will be missed very much. It was a pleasure to have served you and guarded you.

GW Taylor, Ex-Guardsman

■ So sorry to hear of your passing, Ma'am. I have such fond memories of meeting yourself and the Duke of Edinburgh at the British Driving Society Annual Show. The privilege to have you present the winning championship sashes will remain in my heart. Heartfelt condolences to your family and close staff and friends. God save the King.

Vanessa Neal

■ I saw you in person as a wee lassie of about eight when you visited Dalkeith in Scotland. That was so many years ago. You have always been my Queen. I openly wept at your death. I was overwhelmed at the news. Thank you for your years of service to our country. Condolences to His Majesty King Charles III and his family. It's a sad day for our country and the world. God save the King.

Hazel Hoggan

■ I saw the Queen when she visited the Stratford British Rail Motive Power Department where I was doing my apprenticeship. She said hello to us all as she walked through, smiling. A memory never forgotten of a wonderful woman – our Queen and head of the Church of England. She was a one-off in that she showed the world how great a monarch she was. She is missed already.

William Rawlings

■ A veteran of some 24 years standing in the Royal Artillery, I took the Queen's shilling willingly. It was my privilege to take part in the drive-past in Dortmund at the Silver Jubilee, driving though the avenue of guns in 1977. She was our captain-general – that honour now passing to the King. It was an honour, Ma'am. May God keep you as you join your beloved Philip. God save the King.

Tom Rooney

■ You were an inspiration to women all over the world. You worked hard and held yourself to standards no one will ever reach. You ruled with grace and I'm proud to have lived through your reign. The last queen I will see rule – you were a class act. Rest in peace, forever in our hearts.

Emma McGlynn

■ Heartfelt condolences to all the members of the royal family. Her Majesty was the virtuous personification of humanity, wisdom enhanced by inner faith, and she had an unmistakable bond with dogs and horses. She embodies the inner aspiration of all who seek a life well lived. Our prayers and best wishes to His Majesty the King who, without doubt, will manifest remarkable continuity.

Gopal Subramaniam

■ Thank you for everything, Ma'am. I took part in the ceremonial sail-past while serving on HMS Argonaut when you visited Jakarta on the Royal Yacht Britannia. It was an honour to have served you. You will be sadly missed

David Straughan, ex-RN

■ I met HM Queen Elizabeth II when she officially opened the Conwy road tunnel in north Wales. She was absolutely charming, leaving me with a memory I shall never forget. Thank you, Ma'am, for your life and work.

Leslie Eames

■ As an eight-year-old child, I was taken by my mother on the midnight train from Liverpool in 1947 to stand on The Mall to wave my flag to watch her Majesty and Prince Philip's wedding. The wonder of that day has stayed with me all my life. I weep with the nation at her death.

Anne Rowe

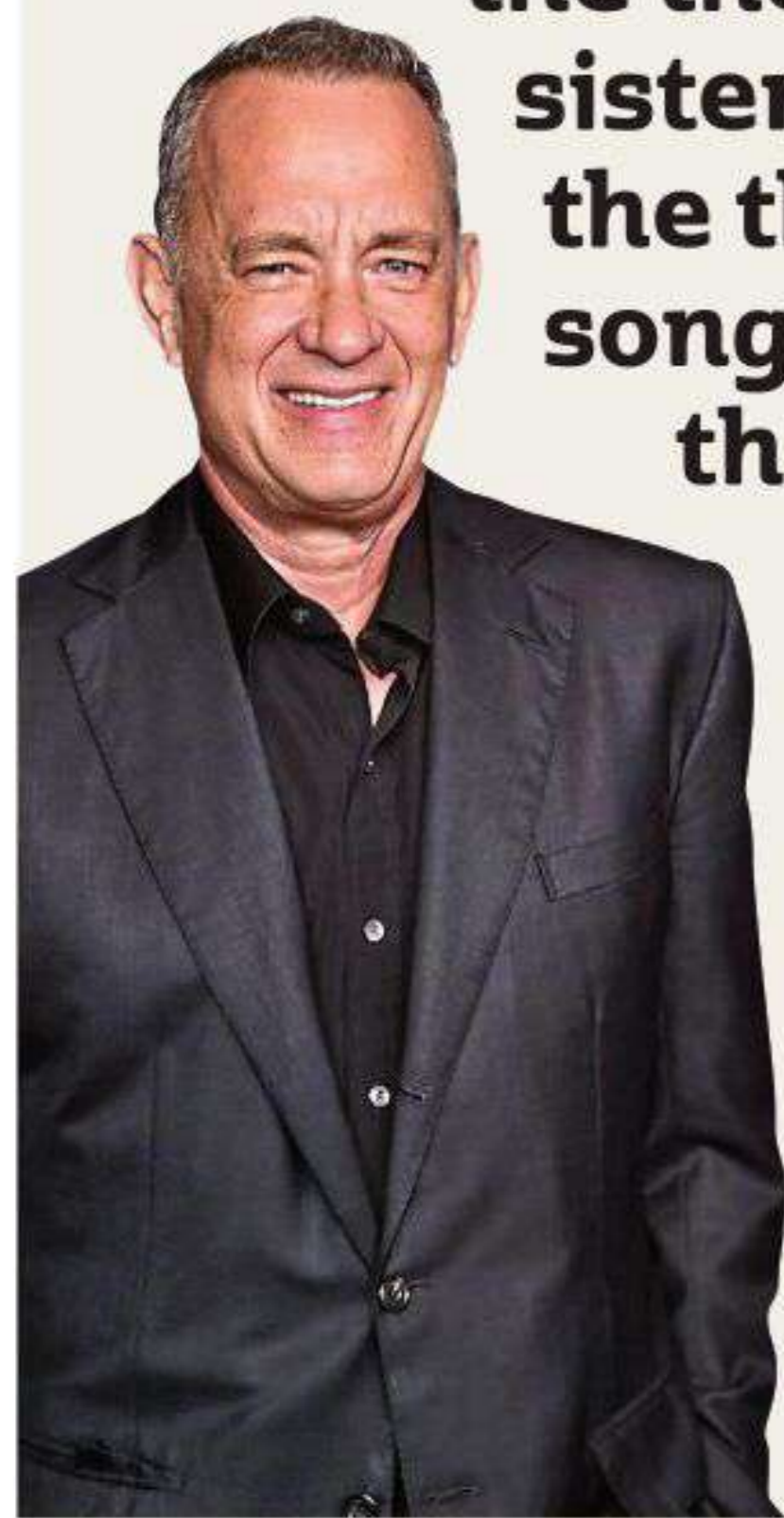
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Elizabeth II 1926-2022

Tom Hanks

'I talked [to the Queen] about doing Shakespeare. That was how I got started. She said, "We love going to the theatre. My sister could go to the theatre, hear a song once and then come home." I said, "And play it on the piano?" She said, "Yes!". That was my moment with Her Majesty.'



Madge and Her Maj: Madonna met the Queen at the premiere of Die Another Day in 2002

Madonna

The one-time 'Queen of Pop' was at the height of her fame when she met the actual Queen in 2002 at the premiere of Die Another Day. Only for Her Madgesty to be humiliated when the Queen obviously hadn't a clue who she was, until a royal aide prompted her that Madonna had performed the 007 title track. 'Oh really, did you?' murmured Elizabeth before moving on to shake hands with John Cleese.



Daniel Craig

Recalling their private shoot for the 2012 Olympics opening ceremony, the James Bond actor said, 'She was very funny. Very funny. She wants to crack a joke, and she cracked a joke about me. We were having our photographs taken and she just went, "Oh no, he's the one that doesn't smile!" She was fun, incredibly game. We had a short space of time and I was a bit grumpy as it was my day off and suddenly I'm at the palace with the Queen at her private chamber. I was rolling around on the floor with the corgis most of the time. I think they have their own footmen - they're very friendly.'

Her Majesty's service: Daniel Craig said it was fun filming his scene with the Queen for the 2012 London Olympics



The Queen acco

SUPERSTARS FROM AROUND THE WORLD ON WHEN THEY MET WITH MONARCHY.
BY LARUSHKA IVAN-ZADEH

Helen Mirren

'I am proud to be an Elizabethan. We mourn a woman, who, with or without the crown, was the epitome of nobility.'



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Comic timing: Dawn French remembers a lot of laughter when meeting the Queen

Dawn French

The comedian explained what it was like to meet the Queen in a line-up. 'For a start you have to tussle with that whole idea of "will you curtsy, won't you curtsy?" And then you do!' French noted that whatever the Queen said, everyone responded with exaggerated laughter. 'Everyone does that! I think people are nervous, eager to please or they don't want to be beheaded or something. So the Queen must think she's a great comedian - all she sees is people laughing at everything she says.'



1926-2022  Elizabeth II



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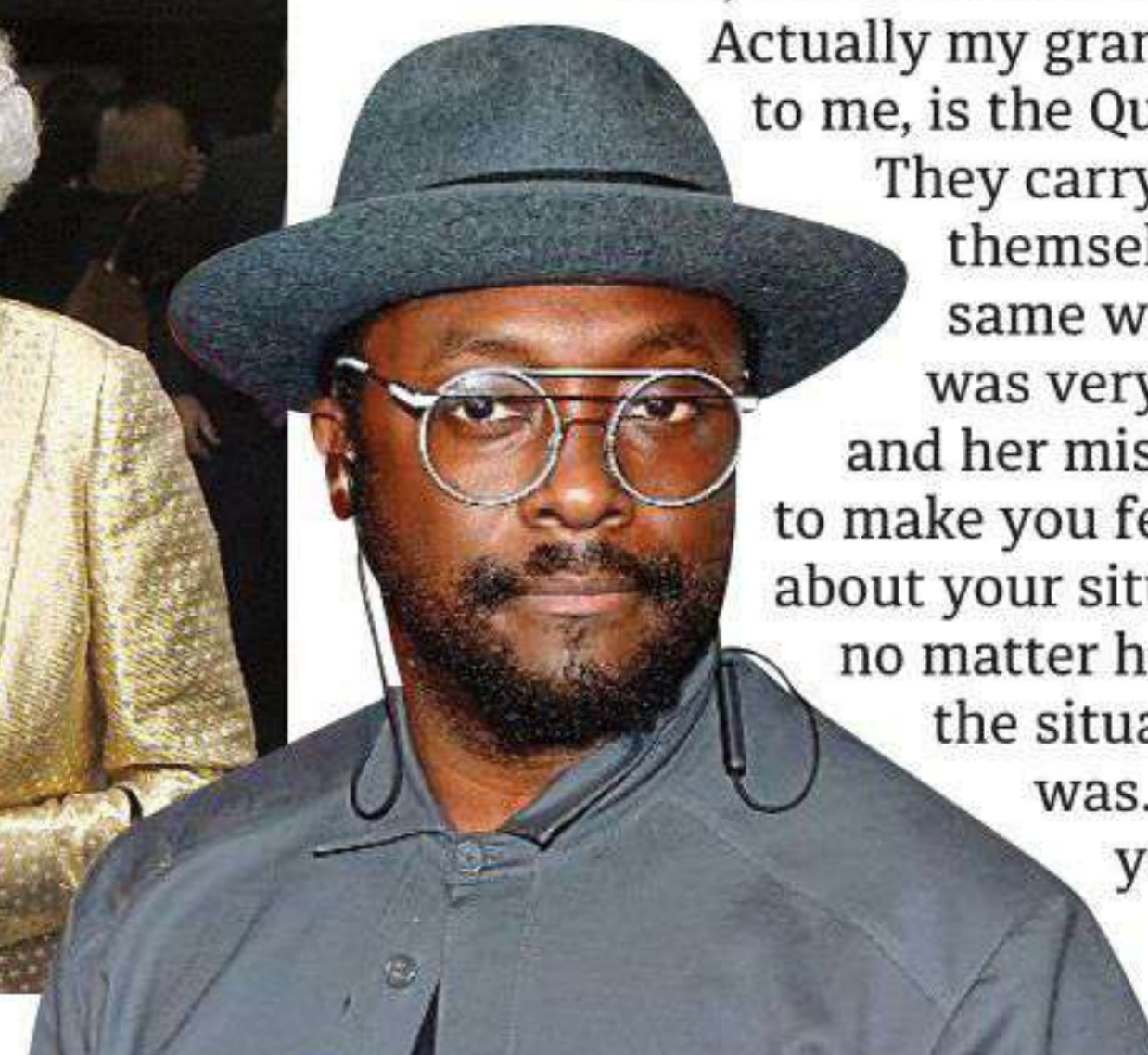


Pop royalty: Will.i.am meets the Queen at the Diamond Jubilee Concert in London in June 2012

WILL.I.AM

'The Queen's Jubilee, that was emotional because that's an honour to be invited and I'm not even a British citizen. And for my grandma to see that, it was overwhelming. Actually my grandma, to me, is the Queen.

They carry themselves the same way. She was very gentle and her mission was to make you feel good about your situation, no matter how bad the situation was. To make you smile.'



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Thank you!

XXXXXX



Barbra Streisand

The performer asked the Queen at the 1975 premiere of Funny Lady, 'Your Majesty, why is it that women have to wear white gloves to meet you and men don't?' The Queen replied: 'I'll have to think about that one. I suppose it's tradition.'

Continued on **Pages 18-19** »

Elizabeth II 1926-2022



» Continued from Page 16-17

Lenny Henry

On what it was like to meet the Queen when he was knighted in 2015, the actor said, 'I've met her before. We go to Nando's on a regular basis - we're always in there together. She has the peri-peri chicken.' We think he was joking.

Elizabeth gave a warm welcome to Windsor neighbour Marilyn Monroe

Sharon Osbourne

'You could never ever say anything against the Queen, she never went wrong with one step,' said the TV star. 'And when she took her oath to be a servant to this country she never broke it - she has served this country her entire life. Can you imagine the things she must have put aside - personally, family-wise, things that she would have loved to have done - to serve her country? A magnificent woman. She will go down in history as the greatest queen the country has ever had.'



Marilyn Monroe

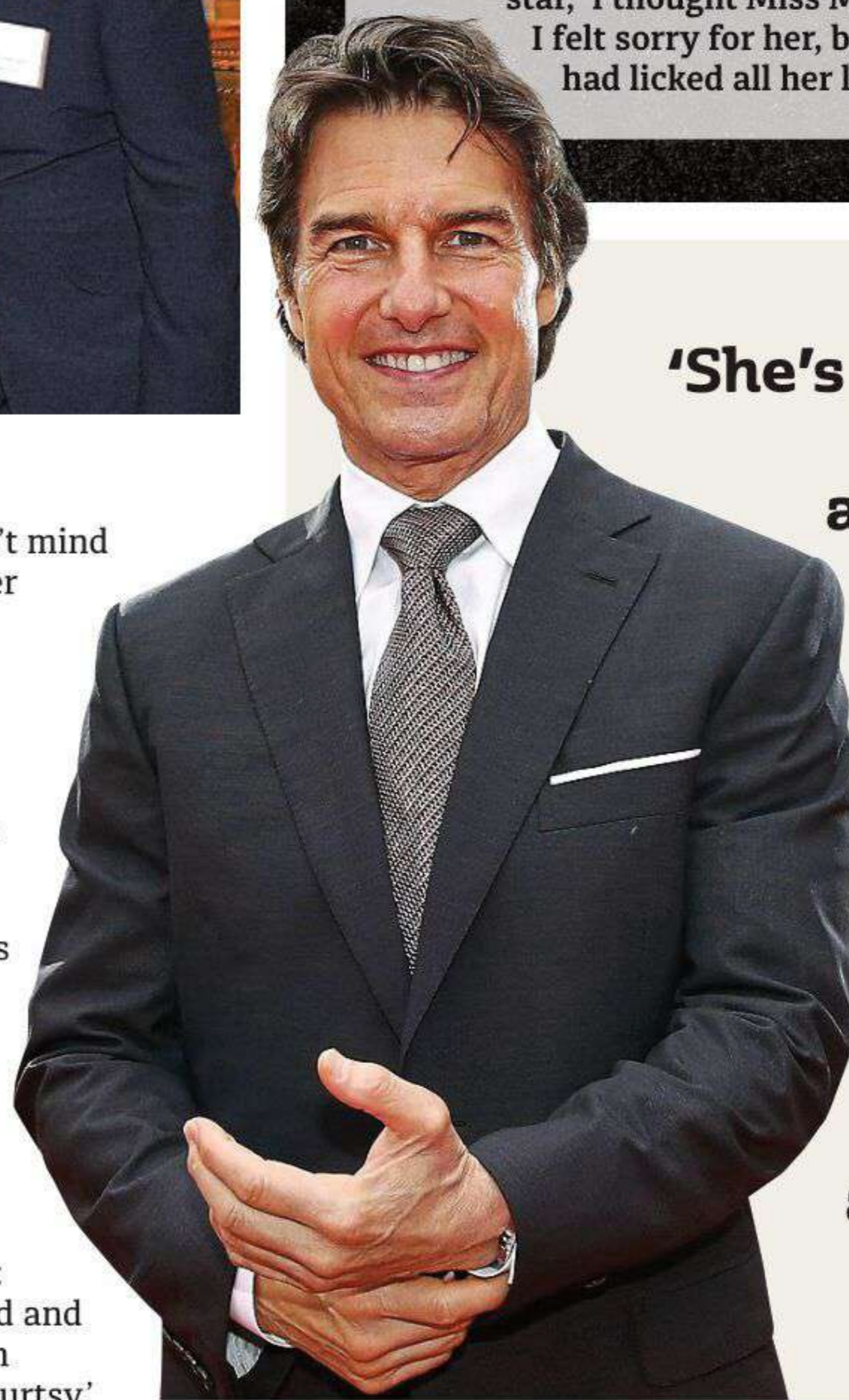
On meeting Her Majesty at the Royal Film Performance in 1956, when both of them were aged 30, the US actress said, 'The Queen is very warm-hearted. She radiates sweetness. She asked how I liked living in Windsor, and I said, "What?!" and she said that, as I lived in Englefield Green, near to Windsor, we were neighbours. So, I told her that Arthur [Monroe's husband Arthur Miller] and I went on bicycle rides in the park.' The Queen apparently said of the film star, 'I thought Miss Monroe was a very sweet person. But I felt sorry for her, because she was so nervous that she had licked all her lipstick off.'



Paparazzi pose: Her Majesty greets Lady Gaga at the Royal Variety Performance in 2009

Lady Gaga

Lady Gaga didn't mind toning down her shock-and-awe dress style to impress Her Majesty at the Royal Variety Performance in 2009. 'When I first came up with what I was doing, I said, "Oh my f***ing God, it's fabulous, I hope the Queen likes it," the pop star gushed, adding: 'I was so excited and [had] even been practising my curtsy.'



Tom Cruise

'She's just a woman that I greatly admire. I think she's someone who has tremendous dignity and I admire her devotion. What she has accomplished has been historic.'



1926-2022 Elizabeth II



Screen stars: The Queen met Marilyn Monroe in London in 1956 when both were aged 30



Joanna Lumley

'A friend of mine, who was a grand old painter, painted the Queen several times,' said Lumley. 'One day she was sitting for him and she said, "Do you think it's cold in here? I think it's cold." So she got on her knees, got some twigs... set a little fire going in the hearth. You kind of don't imagine the Queen doing that. If you do meet any member of the royal family, they are so kind and so friendly and so polite and not grand. You'll find kindly, good-hearted people.'



Lighting up the room: The Queen sat with Anna Wintour at Richard Quinn's show at London Fashion Week in 2018

Anna Wintour

'For 70 years, Her Majesty was a beacon of continuity and a perfect example of someone who lived by a clearly defined set of values,' said the Vogue editor-in-chief. 'We hear so much about the end of an era but her passing, after so many decades of dedicated service, is undoubtedly that.'

'I might have left England for America years ago but the admiration I felt for her has never diminished. I'm not alone in that regard - the Queen touched everyone, wherever they were in the world, maybe because despite her sense of absolute adherence and devotion to the role, who she was as a woman always shone through.'

'Her smile and her keen interest in others never failed her. I experienced that first-hand when I sat with her at designer Richard Quinn's show, just before she presented him with the inaugural Queen Elizabeth II Award for British Design.'

'She was so delighted to be there, telling me how she had appeared in a fashion show before she became Queen. She said it with a joy and humour that lit up the room: an everyday occurrence for Her Majesty, an unforgettable one for the rest of us.'

Sir Elton John

'I was dancing with Princess Anne [at Prince Andrew's 21st birthday party],' said the pop legend. 'Then the Queen came in and she said, "Can we join you?" And they segued into Rock Around The Clock by Bill Haley, and I thought, this is ridiculous. After being born in a council house in Pinner... the odds of you dancing with the Queen at Windsor Castle were very, very long!'



Regal Rocket Man: Elton John meets the Queen at a gala variety performance in the Silver Jubilee year of 1977

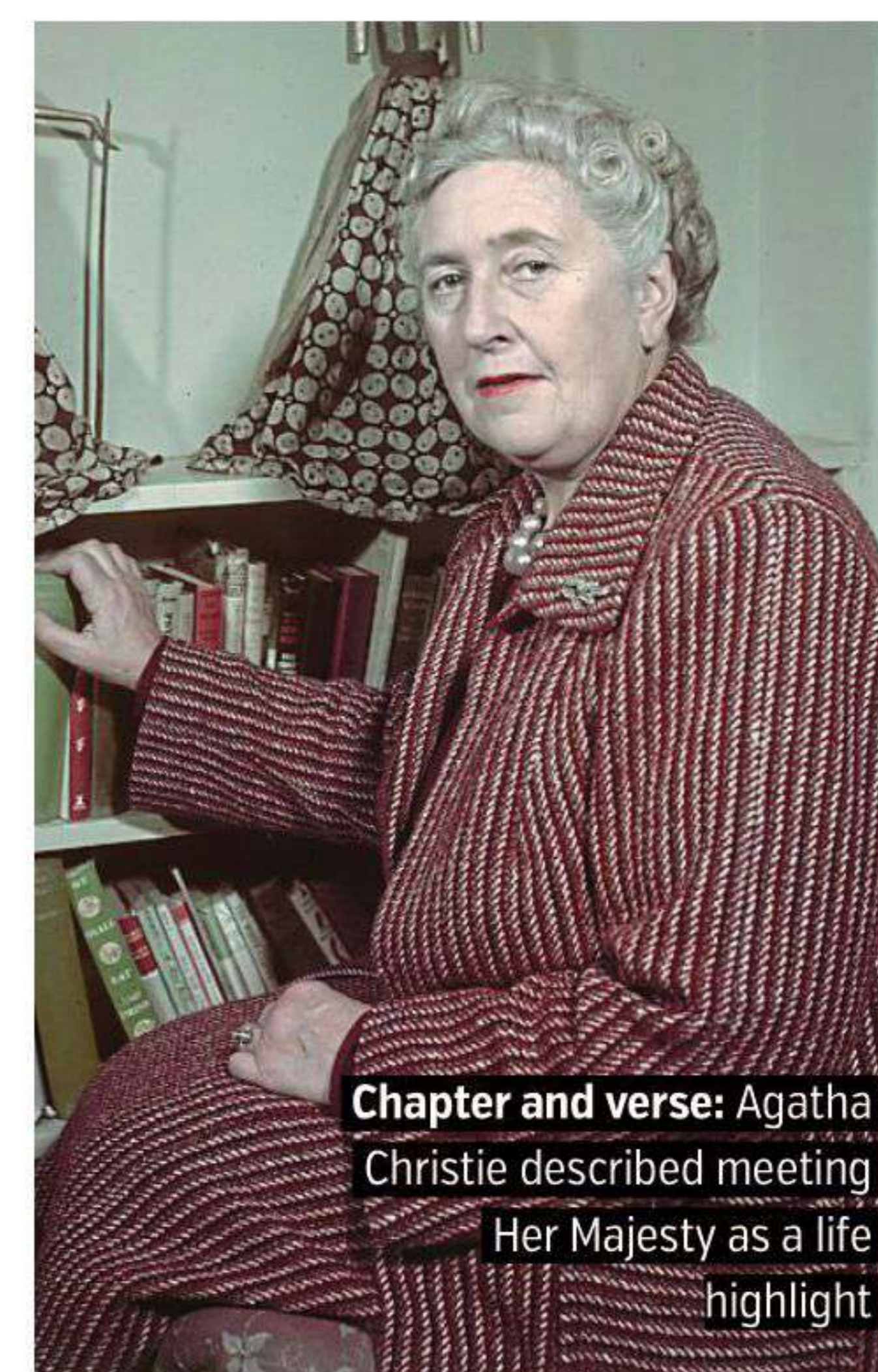


Lewis Hamilton

'At a lunch I was next to the Queen,' recalled the Formula One star. 'I started to talk but she said, pointing to my left, "You speak that way first and I'll speak this way and then I'll come back to you." But his faux pas was swiftly forgiven. 'She's a sweet woman and we talked about how she spends her weekends, houses and music.'

Agatha Christie

In An Autobiography, The Queen of Crime lists buying a car and dining with the Queen at Buckingham Palace as two of the most exciting things that ever happened to her. She described the Queen as 'so small, and slender, in her simple dark red velvet gown with one beautiful jewel', praising 'her kindness and easiness in talking.'



Chapter and verse: Agatha Christie described meeting Her Majesty as a life highlight

WELLBEING

How to come to terms with loss

WITH THE SUDDEN DEATH OF THE NATION'S GRANNY, THE OUTPOURING OF GRIEF WILL LEAVE MANY CONFUSED AND OVERWHELMED. **SARAH EWING** FINDS OUT THE BEST WAYS TO PROCESS THESE FEELINGS

A STEADYING force through tumultuous decades of change and several years of Covid chaos, the death of Queen Elizabeth II has shaken the nation. Most of us can't imagine a time without her or before her and despite her advanced years and declining health, it has caught us all off guard that she's finally gone.

'For most people, the Queen has been a constant presence in their lives since they were born,' says therapist and best-selling author Marisa Peer (marisapeer.com). 'We've grown up watching her attend to her royal duties, delivering her annual Christmas message, and been a part of her milestones, such as the Platinum Jubilee. It can feel like we've lost a family member.'

'This familiarity is known as a parasocial bond. Because we know so much about them, we believe we really know them. As we share our thoughts and memories, it brings us together in our collective pain, just like when Princess Diana died. But this is another time of uncertainty during a time when we've faced a seemingly never-ending state of permacrisis due to global issues.'

The first few days

During the initial aftermath of losing someone important, we often turn to doomscrolling, says Peer. 'We look for as much information about their life and death, poring over images of them and watching footage. While this can be upsetting and overwhelming, it can actually help us come to terms with, and accept the fact they've died.'

'When we acknowledge the impact someone like the Queen has had on our lives, this shared sense of identity helps to lessen the grief. People



The nation mourns: Floral tributes to the Queen at Windsor Castle; below left and right, King Charles III and members of the public at Buckingham Palace

flocking together in tribute at the royal palaces, leaving flowers and lighting candles, talking to strangers and friends alike and sharing thoughts is another way to process grief. Just knowing that other people are experiencing the same feelings, we feel supported rather than alone.'

Talk to children about grief

'Many children will be in shock about the Queen's passing because this may well be the first person that they know who's died,' says Fiona Yassin, founder and clinical director at The Wave Clinic (thewaveclinic.com).

'They may experience very conflicting and confusing emotions, especially if their parents are not pro-monarchy, or take a different view to what they're hearing and seeing at school and in the media. This is not the time for imparting our own views; it's about listening to the young

person and encouraging them to talk. Allow children to remember that person who's passed in any way they wish and give them space to deal with it. Use age-appropriate ways to explain death, avoiding euphemisms or telling children things that aren't particularly true, otherwise you risk mistrust and confusion later. You can explain that the Queen has passed away or gone to heaven, why there will be a funeral, and while this is the end of a chapter, it's not the end of our memories.'

Take it one day at a time

'Sudden change can be hard to digest,' says Angel Enrique, senior digital health specialist at SilverCloud Health (silvercloudhealth.com). 'It's in our nature to be empathetic and when a monumental event like this happens, it's natural to feel sad. The past few years have been exceptionally hard for this country, with many people

losing family members to Covid. Taking care of yourself step by step and focusing on small achievements can help you gradually return to normality after bereavement.'

Loss of security

The Queen was 'a parental figure' who represented 'a real sense of security that went far beyond her role,' says Dr Elena Touroni, consultant psychologist and co-founder of the Chelsea Psychology Clinic (thechelsea-psychologyclinic.com). 'It's about the security of having someone in a position of power who was very much loved and trusted.'

Senior psychotherapist Dana Moinian, of mental health clinic The Soke (thesoke.uk), says: 'If you're triggered to remember past grief, remember how you've handled it. It takes a lot of courage to stop fighting grief and accept loss.'

Missing loved ones

'The Queen's death may reawaken your feelings of grief and loss for a loved one,' says Marisa Peer. 'We find ourselves empathising with the people left behind as you're reminded how hard the mourning process is. Don't suppress these emotions. It's far healthier to cry, be sad or angry, rather than to keep it inside.'

If your present grief is being fed by unresolved grief from the past, write a letter to the deceased, telling them what you miss, what you appreciate about them and what you've carried forward from them into your present life, says Ann Marie Lowe, manager at the Brightstone Clinic (brightstone-clinic.co.uk).

The stages of grief

There is no right or wrong way to grieve, and no appropriate time frame, says Marisa Peer. 'It only becomes damaging to you and others when it goes on for years at the expense of your happiness. As we get older, the death of someone in the public eye can remind us of our own mortality and the fact that death makes no exceptions – to the rich, famous or talented.' Dana Moinian adds: 'The important thing to remember is grieving isn't linear – just because you've gone through a particular stage doesn't mean it's done and dusted.'

Elena Touroni points out: 'Grief impacts the body in different ways: difficulties sleeping, headaches, fatigue, decreased immunity, sadness and detachment. Grief is like a wave that comes and goes, with certain triggers bringing back feelings of loss.'

Find a hypnotic audio for grief at marisapeer.com; The Good Grief Trust (thegoodgrieftrust.org) is the biggest national grief charity; read *The Grief Collective* by Dr Marianne Trent (£10.99, Independent)



WELLBEING

Like Harry and William, I know how it feels to be too late to say goodbye

UNABLE TO REACH HER BELOVED GRAN AT THE END, JESS AUSTIN UNDERSTANDS THE PRINCES' PAIN

MY GRAN always compared herself to the Queen. They lived very different lives – my grandmother, Eileen, was born and raised in a working-class family in Hull. But Gran thought she and the Queen would have been like two peas in a pod.

They were the same age, they both served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service during the war, and their names both started with 'E'.

Her brother, my great-uncle Maurice, had received a medal from the Queen for his disability activism, and Gran had been proud as punch, if slightly jealous. I would laugh whenever she would tell me, but I loved my gran's passion for the Queen, even though she was staunchly anti-monarchy.

After hearing the news of the Queen's death, I couldn't help but feel sadness about the circumstances, but also for my gran, who died aged 92 in 2019. Mainly, my heart went out to the Queen's grandchildren, including Princes William and Harry, who didn't arrive at Balmoral in time to say goodbye to her.

When I read the statement from Buckingham Palace that the Queen was 'comfortable' but that doctors were concerned about her health, I was immediately transported back to December 28, 2019 when my gran's care home called to say she likely had hours left, and that my mum and I should prepare ourselves. They said they would do all they could to keep Gran comfortable.

Like the Queen's family, Mum and I

were nowhere close to where my grandmother was; we were visiting my boyfriend's family in Suffolk while Gran was in London.

Like the royals, my mum and I rushed to be by her side. It was late at night, with no trains running, and we'd had a few Christmas glasses of champagne, which meant we couldn't drive. It took an hour for a cab to come, and then two more to get to Gran's secure dementia unit in the west London suburbs. Like William, Harry and Edward, we got there too late to say goodbye.

As I imagine the princes were, we were told mid-journey that she had died, and the punch to the stomach was instant. The immediate grief twisted with the guilt of not being at her side. Mum and I just crumpled.

I imagine the Queen's loved ones took some comfort in knowing that King Charles and Princess Anne were there with her, just like I am forever grateful to my gran's carers for holding her hand. But still, almost three years on, I feel intense guilt that I couldn't get there earlier; that I'd prevented my mum from being able to do so, as she'd chosen to spend that day away from London with me.

Since my grandmother died, I've been envious of people who made it 'just in time' to say their goodbyes. I've also resented when it's framed as a relative 'holding on' until everyone can be in the room to say goodbye.

It implies that the relative who died before their family's arrival either wasn't strong enough, or didn't value their loved ones enough, to stick around for one hour longer.

For those of us who had complicated relationships with those we've lost, not being at

their side adds an extra layer of guilt. My gran had suffered dementia for over 10 years by the time she died, and lived with severe, lifelong, untreated mental illness that meant she could be cruel. It's hard to admit, but visiting her was emotionally draining, and in the years before her death I didn't see her as much as I should have. I will forever regret not seeing her that Christmas, even though she could no longer remember who I was.

It feels silly to empathise with the Royal Family as our lives and circumstances are so incredibly

Family ties: Above, the Queen with William and Harry; left, Jess Austin in gran Eileen's arms; below left: Eileen holds Jess's mum; right: Eileen, and Jess's mum, with Eileen's brother Maurice and their mum, Mildred; far left, Jess today

the Covid pandemic, many thousands of people missed out on a chance to be with someone in their last days. There was nothing they could have done differently but they still feel that horrible guilt.

To help process these emotions and allow yourself to heal, Kate has some advice: 'It's OK to feel very sad that you didn't make it, but at the same time know that punishing yourself won't help.'

'It can help to remember that your connection to a person doesn't end just because they have died. If you have things you feel you left unsaid you could try writing a letter to them, or finding some other way to say what you would have liked to say.'

'As time goes on you can find ways to remember more of the happy memories you did share, and focus less on that short time towards the end.'

The Queen's death has made many of the feelings resurface about my gran's death, that I'd pushed down. Given that Gran was always comparing herself to the monarch, it's hard not to conflate the two in my head.

I'm going to use this opportunity to follow Kate Mitchell's guidance and put down on paper all my complex emotions about that night, allowing myself to focus on the happier memories going forward.

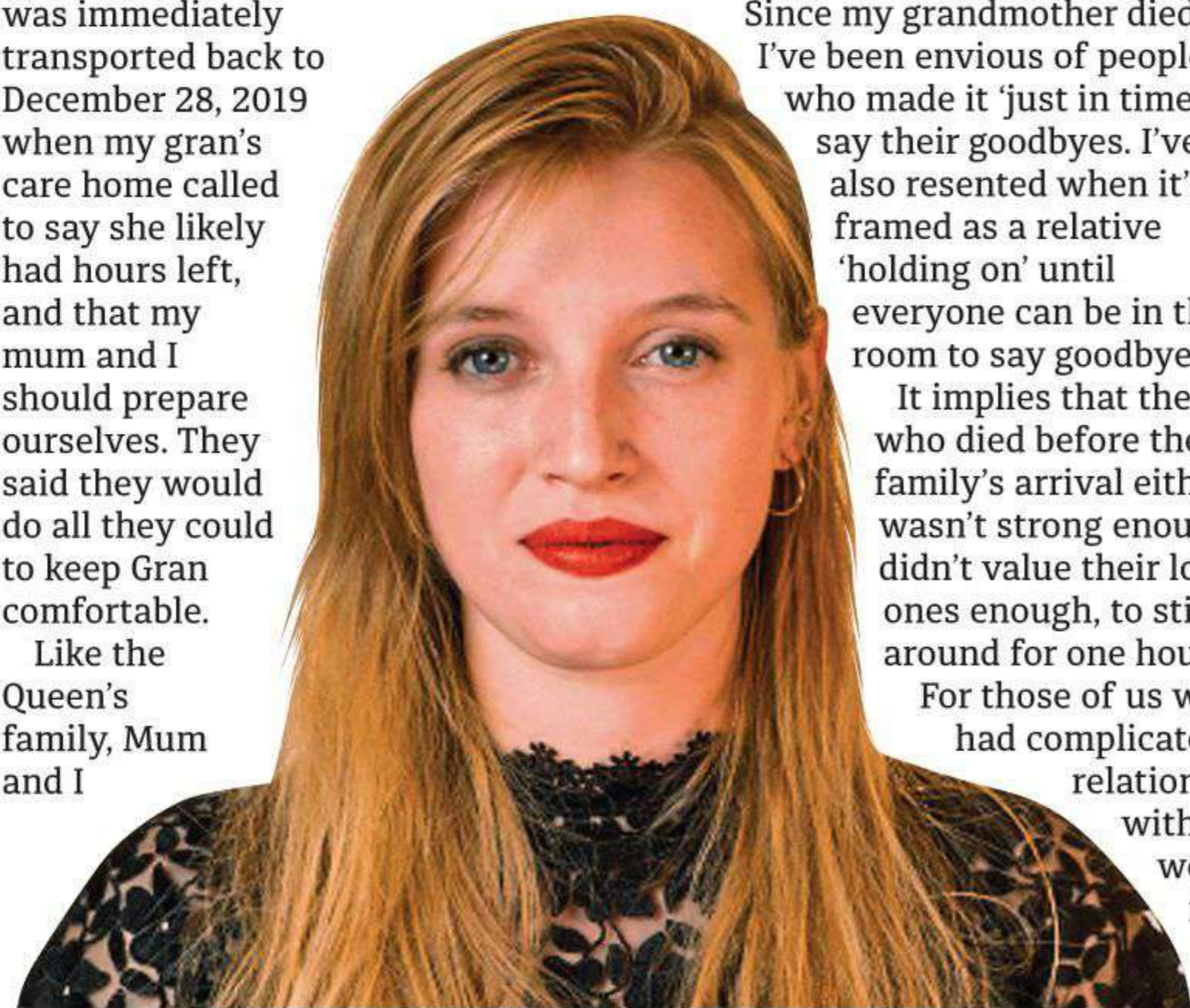
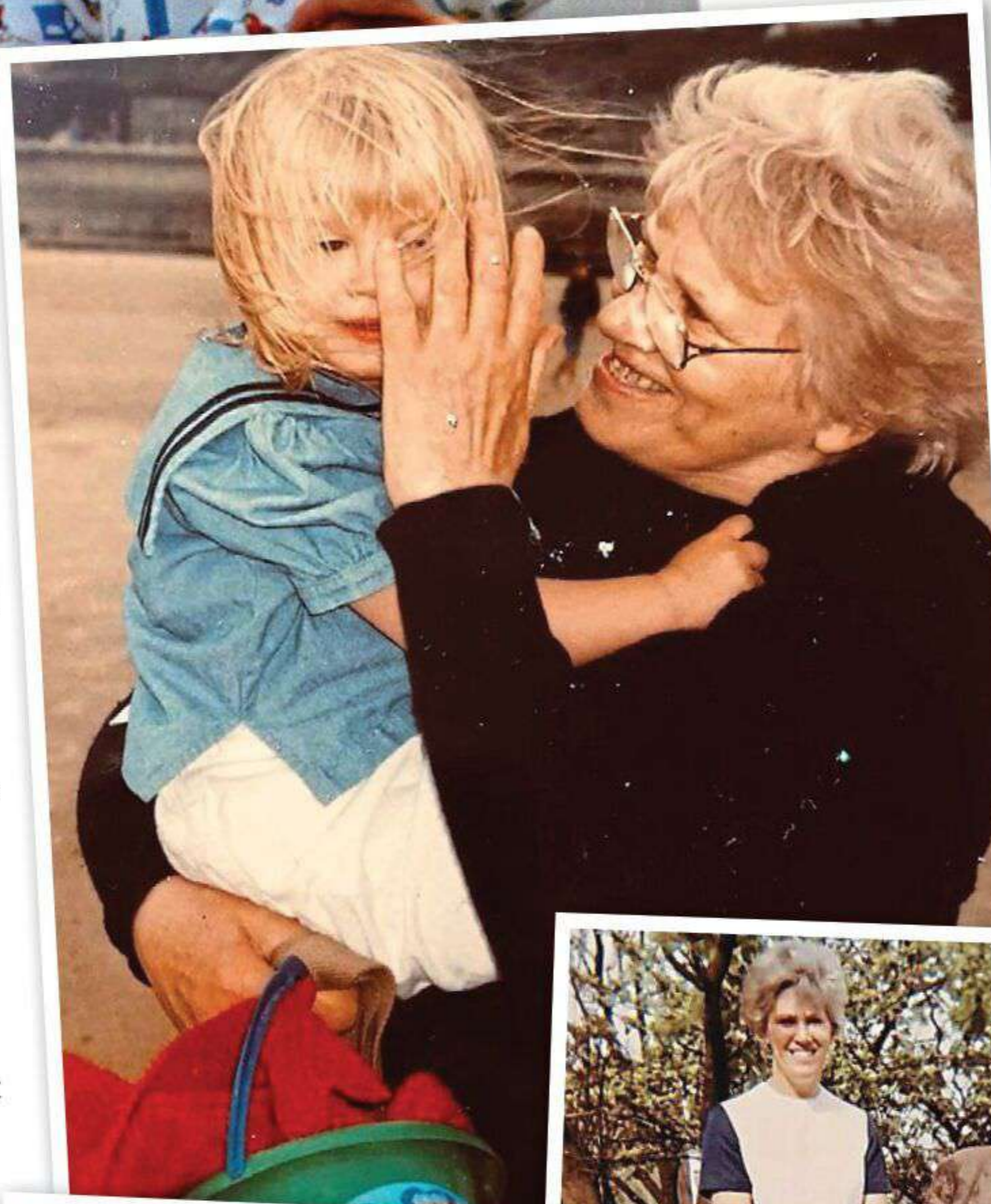
When my mum and I finally got to my gran's home, Mum went into her room for a private moment, while I stood outside. My mum remembers being

alarmed at hearing my laughter from the hallway, but I will be forever grateful to one of Gran's nurses who had been there with her. She came up to me and told me about how much she'd enjoyed my gran's dirty sense of humour (another reason I could never quite believe her and the Queen would be best mates) and memories of her hitting on the Mormons who used to visit the care home. It was the kindest thing that nurse could have done.

I hope William and Harry and the Queen's other grandchildren take comfort in Charles and Anne having been there at the end, and in the knowledge that Elizabeth II was incredibly loved by countless numbers of people. Including Gran.



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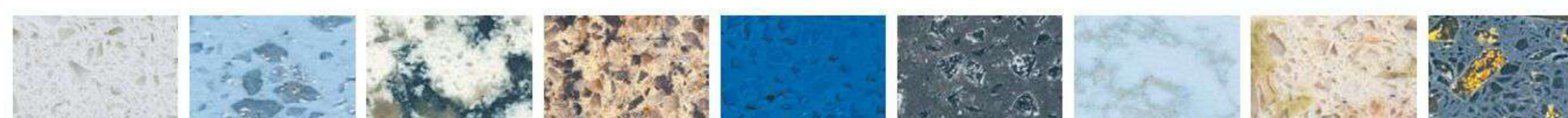
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Public & Legal Notices

VINEDIN LTD

On 7 September 2022, a petition was presented to Glasgow Sheriff Court by the Advocate General for Scotland and on behalf of the Commissioners for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs craving the Court inter alia to order that VINEDIN LTD, 3 Robert Drive, 3 Robert Drive, Glasgow, G51 3HE (registered office) (company registration number SC438562) be wound up by the Court and to appoint a liquidator. All parties claiming an interest must lodge Answers with Glasgow Sheriff Court, General Civil Department, 1 Carlton Place, Glasgow, G5 9DA within 8 days of intimation, service and advertisement.

S Little - Officer of Revenue & Customs
HM Revenue & Customs
Solicitor's Office and Legal Services
Queen Elizabeth House
Edinburgh for Petitioner
Ref: Scotland/1185250/DBS

PROJECT 8 BALL LTD

On 6 September 2022, a petition was presented to Glasgow Sheriff Court by the Advocate General for Scotland and on behalf of the Commissioners for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs craving the Court inter alia to order that PROJECT 8 BALL LTD, 4 Woodside Place, Charing Cross, Glasgow, G3 7QF (registered office) (company registration number SC484010) be wound up by the Court and to appoint a liquidator. All parties claiming an interest must lodge Answers with Glasgow Sheriff Court, General Civil Department, 1 Carlton Place, Glasgow G5 9DA within 8 days of intimation, service and advertisement.

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HM Revenue & Customs
Solicitor's Office and Legal Services
Queen Elizabeth House, Edinburgh
for Petitioner
Ref: Scotland/1190832/YMN

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It is arguably the best team we have had in terms of the depth and the amount of options we have got. Even some of the players that aren't here would have probably actually played in previous teams - like Jack Draper, who is top-50 in the world. It is a good place to be and we can share the load between us all.

Andy Murray



Up for the cup: Evans in practice yesterday as Smith looks on ahead of a big few days in Glasgow, which will also feature Murray (inset)

SMITH: LET'S PUT ON SPECIAL SHOW IN MEMORY OF QUEEN

TENNIS

GREAT Britain captain Leon Smith feels the Davis Cup finals tournament in Glasgow offers the chance to put on 'something special' in memory of the Queen.

The event starts this afternoon at the Emirates Arena, with 2015 Davis Cup winners Great Britain facing the United States, the Netherlands and Kazakhstan as the hosts in Group D.

Andy Murray, who was knighted in 2017 by Prince Charles - now King Charles III - is part of the squad with world No.8 Cameron Norrie and Dan Evans, plus doubles world No.1 Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski.

There will be a minute's silence at the start of each day's play, with the hosts facing the USA today, and the British team will wear black armbands or ribbons as a mark of respect to the Queen.

'It's been obviously a very difficult week for our nation,' Smith

said yesterday. 'We have obviously seen a lot of coverage on the television, we are following it. It has been very sad and a very poignant moment for all of us.'

'Obviously we have seen what has happened with the other sports, with cancellations or postponements, but I think it is an occasion that we can put on something special here.'

'I think a lot of fans would like to come together at this time. Everyone will have their personal choice what to do but from our end as hosts, I think it will be done very, very well and very respectfully.'

Glasgow-born Smith, whose team will play the Dutch tomorrow and then Kazakhstan on Sunday, added: 'It will be a positive tribute that we can provide both as an event, but also as representing Great Britain, as an opportunity for us to go out and do something for our nation again.'

AJ accepts all of Fury's terms for December clash

BOXING

by MATTHEW NASH

ANTHONY JOSHUA has accepted 'all terms' of Tyson Fury's offer for a British heavyweight world-title blockbuster on December 3.

The WBC champion made the offer to his rival last week after Oleksandr Usyk, who holds the WBA, WBO, IBF and IBO belts, made clear his intention to take a break from the ring after his second victory over Joshua last month.

His terms state he will take 60 per cent of the purse split and Joshua, who has no titles now, 40 per cent of the suggested £75million pot. There is a rematch clause with a 50-50 split if Joshua beats Fury.

Yesterday, Joshua's management team 258 said it had accepted Fury's offer on behalf of the 32-year-old and his promoter Matchroom.

A statement said: '258 and Matchroom Boxing can confirm, on behalf of Anthony Joshua, that we accepted all terms presented to us by Fury's team for a fight Dec 3rd last Friday.'

Fury's co-promoter Frank Warren responded on Twitter: 'Contract will be with you very soon.'



British blockbuster: Joshua is ready to fight Fury in December

The main obstacle to the fight may now be broadcasting rights, with Fury and Warren having a deal with BT Sport and Joshua now contracted to streaming service DAZN.

It had been thought the British pair might never fight following Fury's retirement announcement after beating Dillian Whyte at Wembley in April. Now, both men could

be set for the biggest fight of their careers in a clash for which demand for tickets will be huge.

It would justify a stadium such as Wembley as the venue or - more likely for December if it is held in Britain - under the roof at Cardiff's Principality Stadium. Saudi Arabia and other Middle East countries are also interested in staging the fight.

Root excited by England's resurgence

CRICKET

JOE ROOT insisted England have shown more strings to their bow that just attacking cricket after a hugely successful summer.

Root's captaincy ended with one win in 17 that left England bottom

of the World Test Championship but they have improved dramatically under new head coach Brendon McCullum and skipper Ben Stokes.

'We're not just a one-trick pony,' said Root. 'We've not got it right every time this summer but we've

got it right more often than not. We're not the finished article but to see the strides we've made in such a short space of time has been a breath of fresh air.'

'It makes the winter and beyond look very exciting for this team.'

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SPORT CRICKET

CRICKET BOSSES TAKE NEXT STEP TO RESOLVING ISSUES

CRICKET SCOTLAND has established an independent process for investigating individual complaints which emerged from the recent damning review into racism within the sport.

Sports law firm Harper MacLeod will work in conjunction with race equality charity Sporting Equals and campaign group Running Out Racism to review and investigate complaints.

Cricket Scotland has revealed the work is already under way and will take 'some months'.

A total of 68 individual concerns were referred for investigation

following Plan4Sport's review of racism within the organisation.

These included 31 allegations of racism against 15 people, two clubs and one regional association. Some cases were also referred to Police Scotland and Children First.

The report found institutional racism within Cricket Scotland, whose entire board stepped down on the eve of publication in July.

Allegations included racial abuse, use of inappropriate language, favouritism towards white children from public schools and a lack of a transparent selection process.

Cricket Scotland's interim chief

executive Gordon Arthur said:

'Today's announcement marks an important milestone in the process.

'Only when we have investigated fully will we be able to decide what action might be taken to bring closure on these issues.

'We would ask that the process is respected to enable each investigation to reach conclusion.

'I am aware how difficult a process this has been for everyone involved, but it is vital to ensure the next steps are thorough and deliver fair outcomes, so it has been important to take the necessary time to get these steps right.'



Passing the Test:
Stokes and Ollie
Robinson (right)

PICTURE: GETTY

'Bazball' revolution needs evolution but it will never be dull

Derek Pringle

@derekpringle

ENGLAND'S emphatic victory over South Africa, in under two days and a session at the Oval, completed one of the more thrilling summers of Test cricket for the home side.

Their exciting brand of cricket was also successful. Under the new stewardship of Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum, England won six of their seven Tests, beating New Zealand, India and South Africa in the process.

That is about as outstanding as it gets save for beating the Aussies, which remains the benchmark by which cricket here is measured.

Most compelling narratives require a hint of mystery but this one possessed none, just the incredulity, for most of us, of how England kept pulling rabbits out of the hat with their relentless front-foot approach. Even when defeat looked likely they somehow conjured a win; from the bat of Jonny Bairstow and Joe Root in the first half of the summer and then by more communal means later on.

England's formula, if that is what you can call their ultra-aggressive style of cricket, is to take the draw out of the equation. Listening to McCullum, Stokes and some of the other players talking after the last Test, they removed every distraction - the scoreboard, the media, the draw. Instead, they focused on playing exciting, aggressive, all-or-nothing cricket with the wider goal of making Tests more exciting and the more immediate objective of making it fun for players and spectators.

It has worked so far, especially in transforming a side for whom losing, rather than winning, had become second nature following a trot of one win from 17 Tests. But as already mentioned, Australia are English cricket's main metric, and totals of 149, 165 and 158, three of the five made against South Africa, will not win the Ashes. Which suggests Bazball will need to evolve to become smarter if the urn is to be returned next summer.

Before that, the team and their new zeal will be confronted by a Pakistan side eager to get England back on home soil following a 17-year hiatus in the wake of the terrorist attack on Sri Lanka there in 2009. It will be a

fascinating contest with history suggesting the draw as a default result, England having won just two and lost four of the 24 Tests played on Pakistan soil since the first in 1961. Yet, after this summer of thrills, and positive results, who can doubt this England side in overcoming the weight of history?

It will be fascinating to see how England approach the task. Neither McCullum nor Stokes have experienced Tests in Pakistan, though both have played against them on neutral territory in the United Arab Emirates (Pakistan's home during the security crisis). You would imagine the batsmen will need to cope with wily spinners and reverse-swinging fast bowlers, one of them, Shaheen Shah Afridi, heir to the great Wasim Akram.

The challenge for England's bowlers, meanwhile, will be to take 20 wickets, a goal which has largely proved intractable, hence all those draws. James Anderson and Stuart Broad are now the two most successful pace bowlers in Test history, with 667 and 566 wickets respectively, though neither has played in Pakistan, a place that will challenge all their ingenuity and nous.

Given it is McCullum's playing philosophy which now informs England's, it is worth looking at his away record as a batsman against India and Pakistan, to see how it fared in conditions likely to be found this winter.

In five Tests against India, he averaged 50.77 over ten innings though a double hundred rather distorted the data as eight of his other nine knocks were under 50. It is a similar story against Pakistan, where he averaged an even more impressive 69.4 across three Tests. Again a double hundred dominated with the remaining four innings all below 50. Only one of the eight matches was won, the lone success after his 225 against Pakistan.

England enjoyed a series victory in Pakistan 22 years ago. That was achieved by tough, attritional cricket under Nasser Hussain.

This England team will not countenance playing like that, however pragmatic. Success to them is not counted in the win column but in not being dull, the best way, as they see it, to keeping Test cricket relevant.



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Potter not afraid to take a risk after making leap



GROUP E

CHELSEA v RB SALZBURG
8PM, BT SPORT 3

by MATTHEW NASH

GRAHAM POTTER admits he is stepping into the 'unknown' after leaving Brighton for Chelsea and straight into managing his first ever Champions League match.

The 47-year-old ended a successful spell of more than three years on the south coast to replace Thomas Tuchel, who was axed last Wednesday.

In light of his former club's start to the season, which sees them fourth after six games, it could be considered a leap to take over at Stamford Bridge, where managers rarely get longer than 18 months and where even lifting the European Cup did not save Tuchel.

Potter, who rose to prominence during seven years in charge of Oster-



Wherever we start it's a heck of an introduction. Why not start here?

sunds in Sweden, said: 'Risks? If we walk out into the road now, that's a risk, that's what life is. No one knows what's going to happen in the future.'

'I left England when I was 30 and went to a club that had sacked their manager every year for the last five years, fourth tier in Swedish football.'

'Left a secure job, left my wife's business for an opportunity and, 17 years later, after taking careful steps with my career, I haven't just jumped at the first opportunity.'

'Life's about going outside your comfort zone. I don't really see it as a risk in a negative way but everything is a bit unknown. That's the beauty of life.'

Potter's first game in charge of Chelsea will see the Blues take on Red Bull Salzburg at home in the Champions League tonight.

The Englishman has never managed



Brave new world:
Potter, ahead of his first Champions League game, chats to Blues captain Cesar Azpilicueta

PICTURE: GETTY

JORGINHO believes Chelsea's players take responsibility for the sacking of Thomas Tuchel. The German was axed after three defeats in seven games in all competitions this term. But ahead of the visit of Red Bull Salzburg, the Blues midfielder and vice-captain said: 'Of course, we're a team. So it's not one person responsible for what happened. We are a team and a group on the pitch. Of course, it's our responsibility what happened.' He added: 'We tried what we could to try to do our best. Unfortunately, it wasn't working any more.'

in the competition before, and has confessed he has never even been to a Champions League match as a fan but is relishing the challenge.

'Off the top of my head, I don't think I have (been to a Champions League game),' added Potter, who revealed

there had been 'no grand plan' to his career progression. 'I think it's a good time to go in the dugout, why not? Wherever we start it's a heck of an introduction. Why not start here?'

The new Chelsea head coach will have a break of 17 days after tonight

before his first Premier League fixture in charge, at Crystal Palace, due to the international break and the cancellation of Sunday's home game with Liverpool, as the Queen's funeral takes place the following day.

Potter, who must do without injured pair Edouard Mendy (knee) and N'Golo Kante (hamstring) for his Stamford Bridge opener, hailed his new bosses, for whom this is their first managerial appointment since buying the club.

'I got a good feeling for the owners on a human level, good people, very intelligent people who have an understanding of what they want to achieve long-term, a plan,' he said.

Sheen gets leading role with Wales

INTERNATIONAL

WALES boss Robert Page plans to invite Michael Sheen to the World Cup after the actor's rousing 'pre-match' speech on television.

Sheen's passionate oratory on Sky show A League of Their Own has gone viral, with more than 13million views.

Olympic gold medallist Michael Johnson tweeted that Sheen's performance 'sounds awesome', while Match of the Day host Gary Lineker said it had given him 'goosebumps'.

Page and his players are keen to meet the film star, saying the presence of the Port Talbot-raised actor (pictured) in Qatar can help them at the World Cup, where they face USA, Iran and England.

'He's coming to the first (World Cup) game with me,' said Page, speaking after signing a new four-year contract. 'It's fantastic. I well up every time I watch it. I'd been in a meeting in Cardiff and my phone was going mad so I knew something significant had happened. When I watched it, wow, (I was) very emotional.'

'Personally I want to thank him for that. I want to let him know that I appreciate what he's done. Because we're on the map, but he's taken it to another level for us.'



THE TIPSTER

@tipstermetro

BIG NIGHT COULD BE SALZ SHAKER FOR NEW GAFFER

IT IS the start of a new era at Stamford Bridge tonight but Graham Potter may not celebrate his first game in charge of Chelsea with a victory.

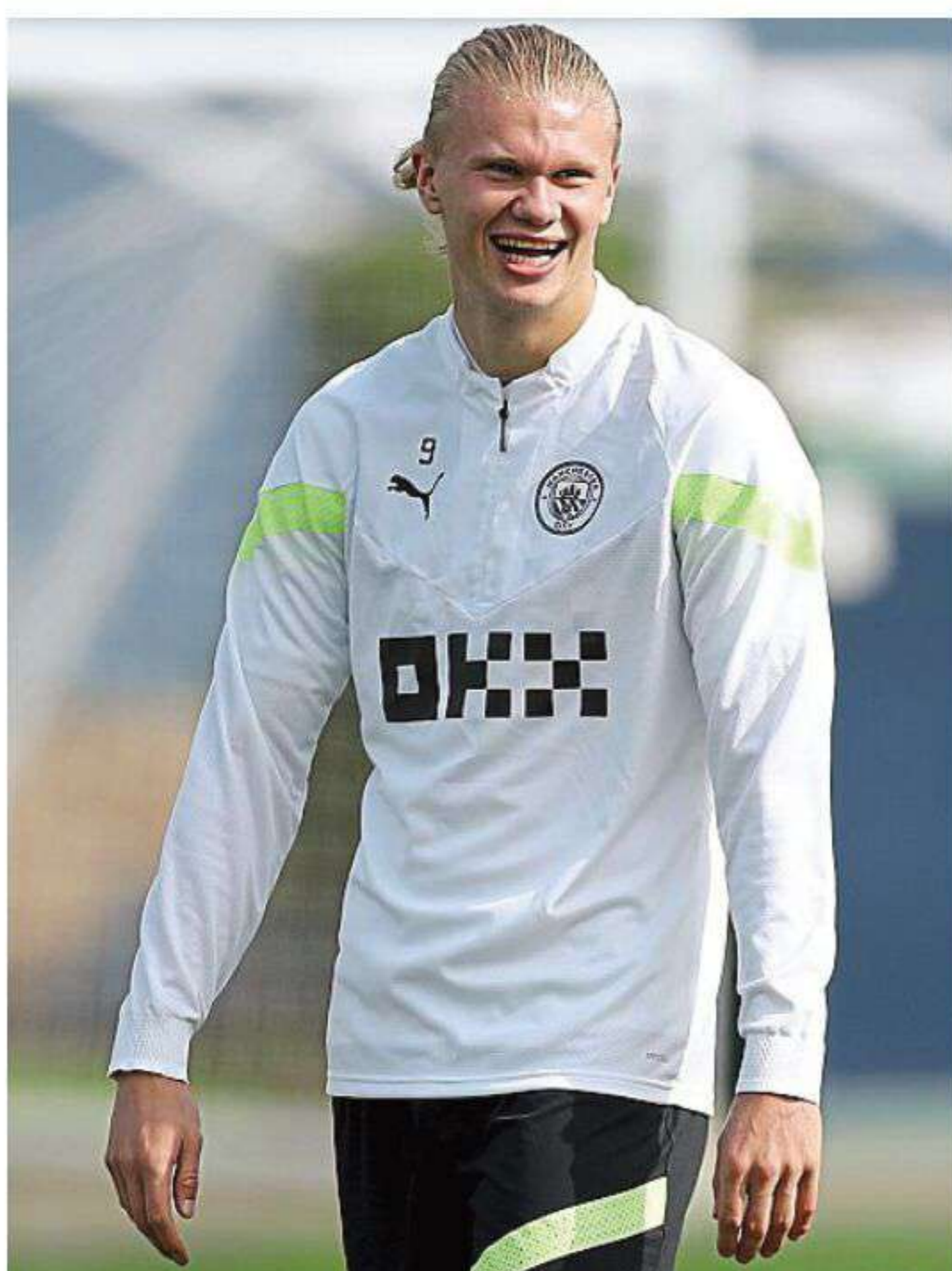
Time will surely be needed for his tactical nous to bring about real change, even taking the honeymoon bump into consideration. The new recruits brought in during the final weeks of Thomas Tuchel's time at the helm have also yet to settle in and last, but by no means least, Salzburg are a very good team and are not to be underestimated.

They have won seven of eight Bundesliga matches to go top in Austria and recently drew 1-1 at home to AC Milan, who are unbeaten and third in Serie A, in the Champions League.

Another draw is on the cards this evening at 5-1 with Betfred and 1-1 appeals at 11/1 with SBK.

11/5 Erling Haaland (who else?) to open the scoring tonight when Manchester City entertain his former club Borussia Dortmund (bet365)

■ LUTON, Norwich, Rotherham and Reading form tonight's Football League yankee.



Friends reunited: Haaland faces his former club

Threat of fixture pile-up not giving Pep cause for concern

MANCHESTER City boss Pep Guardiola is not concerned about the prospect of a fixture pile-up later in the season.

The Premier League champions' game with Tottenham last weekend was postponed following the death of the Queen and there is a possibility their trip to Arsenal on October 19 will be moved.

That is because the Gunners could reschedule their postponed Europa League tie against PSV Eindhoven for that midweek.

With the World Cup due to interrupt the season for six weeks from mid-November, it seems unlikely these City games could be played before the new year.

That could create a backlog in the second half of the campaign

GROUP G
MAN CITY v B DORTMUND
8PM, BT SPORT 2

by JACK FOX

but Guardiola is not worrying about it now.

'The Premier League has the ability to find (room for) the fixtures,' said the Spaniard ahead of tonight's Champions League visit of Borussia Dortmund.

'Maybe the Tottenham game will be in February or March because now I think it is not possible. We will find a way.'

'We are going to play this postponed game, it's not a problem. Always the fixtures were so tight every season.'

'We'll see how the players come

back from the World Cup and after that, in the last three or four months of competition, we do all we can to be there at the end.'

The visit of Dortmund tonight will see free-scoring City striker Erling Haaland up against the club he left in the summer. Two other recent signings, Sergio Gomez and Manuel Akanji, are also former Dortmund players.

'They know these players better than I know Dortmund players, that's for sure,' said Guardiola, whose side beat Sevilla 4-0 in their opening Group G game.

'They can get that benefit but we'll see (tonight) if it's an advantage or disadvantage, but these three know the qualities of the Dortmund players too.'

FA Cup replays under threat due to backlog

REPLAYS could again be scrapped in the third and fourth rounds of the FA Cup this season as clubs look to catch up on games postponed following the death of the Queen.

They were ditched in each of the last two seasons and it is understood it is one solution under consideration to solve the fixture backlog.

Last weekend's Premier League programme was called off as a mark of respect and two more high-profile fixtures, at Chelsea and Manchester United, have been postponed this Sunday. Brighton against Crystal Palace was already called off due to planned rail strikes which are now off.

It leaves clubs facing a potential fixture pile-up later, exacerbated by the pause in the campaign caused by the winter World Cup.

'Following extensive consultation with clubs, police, local Safety Advisory Groups and other relevant authorities, there was no other option but to postpone the three fixtures,' a Premier League statement read. 'New dates for the postponed matches will be announced in due course.'

The kick-off times for two of Sunday's games have also been altered. Brentford against Arsenal will now start at midday, with the game between Everton and West Ham kicking off at 2.15pm.

RESULTS

Champions League Group A		
Liverpool	2 Ajax.....	1
Group B		
Bayer Leverkusen	2 Atletico Madrid.....	0
Porto	0 Club Bruges	4
Group C		
Bayern Munich.....	2 Barcelona	0
Viktoria Plzen	0 Inter Milan	2
Group D		
Marseille	0 Eintracht Frankfurt.....	1
Sporting Lisbon	2 Tottenham.....	0
Sky Bet Championship		
Blackburn.....	2 Watford	0
Huddersfield.....	1 Wigan	2
Hull	0 Stoke	3
Middlesbrough.....	2 Cardiff	3
Preston.....	1 Burnley.....	1
Swansea	0 Sheff Utd	1
Sky Bet League One		
Barnsley	1 Port Vale	1
Burton	0 Portsmouth.....	2
Charlton.....	1 Forest Green.....	1
Cheltenham	2 Cambridge.....	1
Ipswich	2 Bristol Rovers.....	0
Lincoln	2 Derby	0
MK Dons	0 Bolton.....	2
Morecambe.....	0 Sheff Wed.....	3
Peterborough.....	0 Fleetwood	1
Plymouth.....	1 Oxford.....	0
Shrewsbury	3 Exeter.....	2
Wycombe	1 Accrington.....	0
Sky Bet League Two		
AFC Wimbledon	0 Northampton.....	2
Barrow	2 Doncaster.....	0
Crawley.....	3 Stockport.....	2
Grimsby	1 Gillingham.....	1
Harrogate	0 Salford.....	1
Hartlepool.....	1 Crewe	1
Mansfield.....	0 Carlisle.....	0
Rochdale	0 Leyton Orient	1
Stevenage.....	1 Newport.....	0
Swindon.....	3 Sutton	2
Tranmere	1 Bradford	2
Walsall	1 Colchester.....	1

FIXTURES

Champions League Group A	
Rangers v Napoli.....	[8pm] TV BT Sport 4
Group E	
AC Milan v Dinamo Zagreb.....	[5.45pm]
Chelsea v Red Bull Salzburg.....	[8pm] TV BT Sport 3
Group F	
Real Madrid v RB Leipzig.....	[8pm]
Shakhtar Donetsk v Celtic.....	[5.45pm] TV BT Sport 4
Group G	
FC Copenhagen v Sevilla.....	[8pm]
Man City v Borussia Dortmund.....	[8pm] TV BT Sport 2
Group H	
Juventus v Benfica.....	[8pm]
Maccabi Haifa v Paris Saint-Germain.....	[8pm]
Sky Bet Championship	
Luton v Coventry.....	
Millwall v QPR.....	
Norwich v Bristol City.....	
Reading v Sunderland.....	[8pm] TV Sky Sports
Rotherham v Blackpool.....	
West Brom v Birmingham.....	[8pm] TV Sky Sports

*All other Championship games on Sky Sports Red Button

CELTS NEED TO F



Ready to go: Kyogo Furuhashi warms up in training ahead of Shakhtar clash

ANGE DEMANDS 90-MINUTE PERFORMANCE IN WARSAW AFTER HOOPS' REAL LESSON



GROUP F

SHAKHTAR DONETSK v CELTIC

5.45PM, BT SPORT 4

by FRASER RORISON

CELTIC boss Ange Postecoglou has challenged his players to show more resilience and staying power against Shakhtar Donetsk.

The Hoops created a number of good chances against holders Real Madrid last week in their Champions League opener but lost three second-half goals in a 3-0 defeat.

Carlo Ancelotti admitted his Real side 'suffered' in the first half but Postecoglou seemed to be more frustrated than he was encouraged after the display.

The Hoops now face the Ukrainians, who shocked RB Leipzig with a 4-1 win in Germany last week, in Warsaw tonight.

'I was a bit frustrated and disappointed because it's not just about playing our football for a certain amount of time,' Postecoglou said. 'I don't see any reason why we couldn't have done that for longer.'

'In the context of who we were playing against, I understand that you are playing against one of the best teams in the world at the moment, maybe the best.

'And to match them by playing our football was encouraging, but I didn't see any reason why that couldn't continue beyond the time it did. Looking back, the disappointing thing was, when we conceded, we conceded again quickly.'

Postecoglou, without crock Carl Starfelt and sick James McCarthy, added: 'If we had hung in the game there's always the chance to create again and just because you concede to them, an unbelievable



Challenge: Ange Postecoglou

team, we should have just got back to it and kept playing our football. In the end we lose 3-0.

'We could have been more competitive for longer in that game. At this level 60 minutes is never going to be enough. You have to make sure you see the game out and be resilient when you need to.'

Shakhtar boss Igor Jovicevic hinted his side would be happy to let Celtic have the ball and hit them on the counter-attack - but Postecoglou added: 'We know it's going to be tough. Every opposition will give us different challenges and whatever it is out there we have got to be ready to face it.'

The game will give the exiled Ukrainians the chance to see their team compete on the European stage amid the war against Russia in their homeland.

There will be a 'Stop the War' display on big screens before the game but Postecoglou said: 'It's a Champions League football match and our responsibility and every club's responsibility is to represent ourselves and the people we represent in the best manner.

'And make sure we are prepared for what is hopefully going to be a really good football match.'

FINAL TEN NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR ANTONIO

TOTTENHAM boss Antonio Conte believes his side switched off in the final ten minutes and paid the price as they went down 2-0 in Portugal.

Late goals from Paulinho and Arthur Gomes handed Sporting victory and a first defeat of the season for Spurs.

Conte, who has now lost nine times in 19 Champions League away days as a manager, said: 'Difficult result and when you lose you're not happy.'

'We could've scored, and we tried to win the game, then in the last ten minutes we can do much better.'

'It's a pity but it was a difficult game. We tried to get a win but in the end we lost the game. We had two or three situations that we can do much better in but now we have to think about the next game in the Premier League [at home to Leicester on Saturday].'



Making sure: Gomes nets the second deep into added time

GROUP D							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
SPORTING LISBON	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
TOTTENHAM	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
E FRANKFURT	2	1	0	1	1	3	3
MARSEILLE	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

FINISH THE JOB



Focused: Former Celtic winger Marian Shved, right, during training yesterday

BOSS CALLS FOR FANS' HELP

SHAKHTAR DONETSK head coach Igor Jovicevic has called on supporters to help his side overcome their fear of Celtic as the Ukrainian side prepare to play their first Champions League home game in Warsaw.

Shakhtar, who have not been able to play at their home stadium since 2014 due to conflict in the Donbas region, kicked off their group campaign with a shock 4-1 win over RB Leipzig which prompted the German side to sack manager Domenico Tedesco.

Jovicevic (right) believes they are the underdogs again.

He said: 'This will be a very, very challenging game for us. They play very good

combination football, a very aggressive game, a very dynamic game. There is a sense of adrenaline and fear. A sporting fear. Without fear in sports there is no courage, no drive forward.'

Most of the tickets have been sold for the game at Legia Warsaw's 31,800-capacity Municipal Stadium and Jovicevic said: 'We are expecting a full house. We need the fans to share their impetus, their energy, their drive with us so we can fight from the first minute to the last.'

'Our opponents are always favourites. Leipzig were favourites, Celtic are favourites, Real Madrid will be favourites. But we will show what we are capable of.'



SHAKHTAR FOCUS

CELTIC TAKE ON THE UKRAINIAN CHAMPIONS AS THEY HUNT A FIRST VICTORY IN GROUP F

FORM

Shakhtar kicked off their Group F campaign with a stunning 4-1 win over RB Leipzig in Germany. Igor Jovicevic's side have also made a good start to the Ukrainian Premier League with three wins and a draw, but needed an injury-time winner to beat Chornomorets Odesa 2-1 last weekend and sit behind leaders Kolos on goal difference.

MANAGER

Croat Jovicevic, 48, started his youth career at hometown club Dinamo Zagreb before moving on to Real Madrid's reserve team, Castilla. A much-travelled forward, he had spells in Japan, Brazil, China and Ukraine, where he began his coaching career with Karpaty Lviv in 2014. He had a year bossing Celje in Slovenia before joining the Dinamo Zagreb set-up, where he became first-team boss in 2020. He moved to Dnipro later that year before switching to Shakhtar this summer on a two-year deal.

EUROPEAN PEDIGREE

The 13-times Ukrainian champions won the Uefa Cup in 2009, knocking out Tottenham, CSKA Moscow and domestic rivals Dynamo Kyiv on their way to the final, where they beat Werder Bremen. They reached the Europa League semi-finals in 2019/20 but lost 5-0 to Inter Milan in Dusseldorf, and finished bottom of their Champions League group last season. They have met Celtic in two previous Champions League campaigns with all four games ending in home wins.

PLAYERS

Marian Shved is known to many Celtic fans after his brief spell at the club, scoring on his debut against Nomme Kalju in July 2019. The 25-year-old winger scored twice against Leipzig and once at the weekend, so is the one to watch, but Shakhtar also boast several experienced Ukraine internationals.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Worcester 'terms agreed with buyer'

RUGBY UNION

WORCESTER co-owners Colin Goldring and Jason Whittingham have agreed terms with an undisclosed buyer for the financially stricken club.

The club have debts of more than £25million, including £6m in unpaid tax, and face administration if they fail to find a new buyer.

Players and staff have still not been fully paid for August amid grave concerns over September's payroll, but the news that an agreement is now in the hands of lawyers indicates an end to the

crisis is in sight. Efforts are being made to ensure Worcester's first home match of the season goes ahead as scheduled on Sunday with the new buyer providing financial support.

A statement read: 'We have been working closely with the interested party on the immediate deposit of significant funds which will allow Sunday's Premiership match against Exeter and Saturday's Allianz Cup tie between University of Worcester Warriors and Harlequins to go ahead as scheduled.'

Reda writes dream ending for Blades

FOOTBALL

SHEFFIELD United are four points clear in the Championship after Reda Khadra's (right) winner in the fourth minute of injury-time at Swansea.

The goal followed an explosive burst from sub Rhian Brewster, who was on loan at the Swans in 2020.

Ryan Hedges and Dominic Hyam were on target as Blackburn beat Watford 2-0.



97 Not out for Hashim Amla as County Championship title chasers Surrey recovered from losing three early wickets to reach 224 for five in response to Northamptonshire's 339 on day two

6 Point deduction for Lancashire from the Cricket Discipline Commission, who activated part of a suspended 12-point sanction from 2021 and relating to a series of incidents dating back to September 2020. The county criticised the decision, which ends their slim title hopes, calling it 'gut wrenching'

8 Wicket win for India over England in last night's women's T20 international. Freya Kemp hit 51 in England's 142 for six but Smriti Mandhana's (right) unbeaten 79 ensured a comfortable India win



MacPherson excited by Saints role

FOOTBALL

GUS MacPHERSON is looking forward to the 'hugely exciting' role as St Johnstone's head of football operations.

The former St Mirren, Queen of the South, Queen's Park and Morton boss will succeed Scott Boyd in the post at McDiarmid Park.

MacPherson, 53, who will take over next month, said: 'This is a fantastic opportunity and one I'm really looking forward to. There are many first-class people at St Johnstone.'

'The job is hugely exciting and will bring many challenges. That's something I will embrace and do my best to maintain, and, indeed, improve the high standards already in place.'

FOOTBALL

NEW Arsenal signing Gio Queiroz will spend the season on loan at Women's Super League rivals Everton following her move from Barcelona.

Barca announced last week an agreement had been reached for the 19-year-old Brazil international to join the Gunners - and she is now heading to Merseyside.

Agony for Conte as Spurs are sunk by Sporting late show

TOTTENHAM conceded two goals in injury-time to slip to a 2-0 Champions League defeat at Sporting Lisbon.

Spurs were contemplating an evening of frustration as it looked like they would be held to a 0-0 draw in Portugal before things went very wrong at the death.

Paulinho nodded home from a corner and then, with virtually the last kick, Arthur Gomes sauntered into the box to convert and put Sporting top of Group D with two wins from two.

Boss Antonio Conte will be furious with the manner of the loss as his side suffered their first defeat of the season in an



uninspiring display.

It had been a slow start, with Marcus Edwards intent on showing his old club what they were missing. And after a darting run down the channel he laid a chance on for Pedro Goncalves, but Hugo Lloris was equal to the shot.

Spurs looked threatening in patches and thought they took the lead on the stroke of half-time as Richarlison rounded Antonio Adan

but the Brazilian was well offside.

It needed another Lloris save to ensure the visitors went in level as he denied Edwards a wonder goal.

The 23-year-old sauntered past a number of challenges to advance into the box, played a one-two, beat another man and then stabbed a shot, but was denied by the Frenchman. Spurs started the second half strongly and had enough chances to take control of

the game. Harry Kane (left) stung the palms of Adan and Richarlison drifted an effort wide.

Spurs upped the ante and Kane was just unable to get on the end of a wicked Ivan Perisic cross, while Richarlison headed Dejan Kulusevski's cross wide.

But the visitors were undone in three minutes of injury-time. Paulinho glanced a header home before Arthur produced a moment of brilliance to weave into the area and shoot under Lloris.





Winners: Liverpool celebrate late goal by Joel Matip, bottom right

Matip's late goal has Reds buzzing



LIVERPOOL

Salah 17, Matip 89

AJAX

Kudus 27

LIVERPOOL left it late to get their Champions League campaign back on track as Joel Matip scored a dramatic last-gasp winner against Ajax at Anfield.

Jürgen Klopp's team were under pressure following last week's 4-1 mauling by Napoli and it looked like they were going to be thwarted by the Dutch side until Matip popped up with an 89th-minute header for a vital victory.

The Reds went ahead after 17 minutes when Allison's long ball was flicked by Luis Díaz towards Diogo Jota, who fed Mohamed Salah, the Egyptian shooting home clinically.

But the lead only lasted ten minutes, with a slick Ajax move

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
NAPOLI	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
LIVERPOOL	2	1	0	1	3	5	3
AJAX	2	1	0	1	5	2	3
RANGERS	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

setting up Edson Alvarez, who cut back for Mohammed Kudus. He made space and smashed home a glorious shot into the top corner.

Virgil van Dijk headed straight at Remko Pasveer, who also had to save twice from Trent Alexander-Arnold.

In an entertaining second half, Daley Blind saw a diving header fly inches wide for the visitors before Darwin Nunez pulled an effort wide at the other end.

Then Salah's shot was deflected on to the woodwork and behind for a corner, which was swung in by Kostas Tsimikas and powerfully headed home by Matip.

Relief: Jürgen Klopp



STAND ANI DELIVER

GIO WILL STICK TO HIS PRINCIPLES AS HE TARGETS WIN OVER GROUP RIVALS NAPOLI

GIOVANNI van Bronckhorst has vowed to stand by his style of play, despite successive 4-0 defeats putting him under the spotlight ahead of Rangers' Champions League clash with Napoli at Ibrox.

The Light Blues began with a demoralising drubbing by Ajax in Amsterdam, which followed a heavy loss to rivals Celtic at Parkhead in the Premiership.

The Gers boss, who revealed goalkeeper Jon McLaughlin picked up an injury in the Netherlands and will be replaced by 40-year-old Allan McGregor, is adamant he will not adopt defensive tactics in a bid to stop the rot.

Quizzed about a possible change for tonight's visit of the Serie A leaders, who beat Liverpool 4-1 last week, the Dutchman said: 'No, nothing to change about our philosophy. Two weeks ago we qualified for the Champions League.'

'Everything was fine. Everyone was praised - about the team, about the staff, about the club. We're doing well.'

'Two defeats later it looks like we haven't performed in the last couple of years. That's the dynamic of football.'

'I'm not changing anything about how I want to play. Of course there is a lot of room for improvement.'

'The most disappointing thing about the last two games is that we didn't perform. That's something that has to change.'

'You don't play every year in the Champions League.'

'The level we're facing in this



RANGERS v NAPOLI

8PM, BT SPORT 4

by BRYAN YOUNG

couple of months, we have never endured that in the last 12 years.

'So, it's going to be tough. But I don't understand why we have to put our philosophy on the side.'

'We can go to Ajax and play with ten defenders and keep the zero, but we're not improving as a team like that.'

'I'm sure the opponent we faced against Ajax was an experience my team won't forget. The big learning point is to do it differently against another quality team in Napoli. For sure we faced heavy



The level that we're facing we have never endured in the last 12 years, it's tough

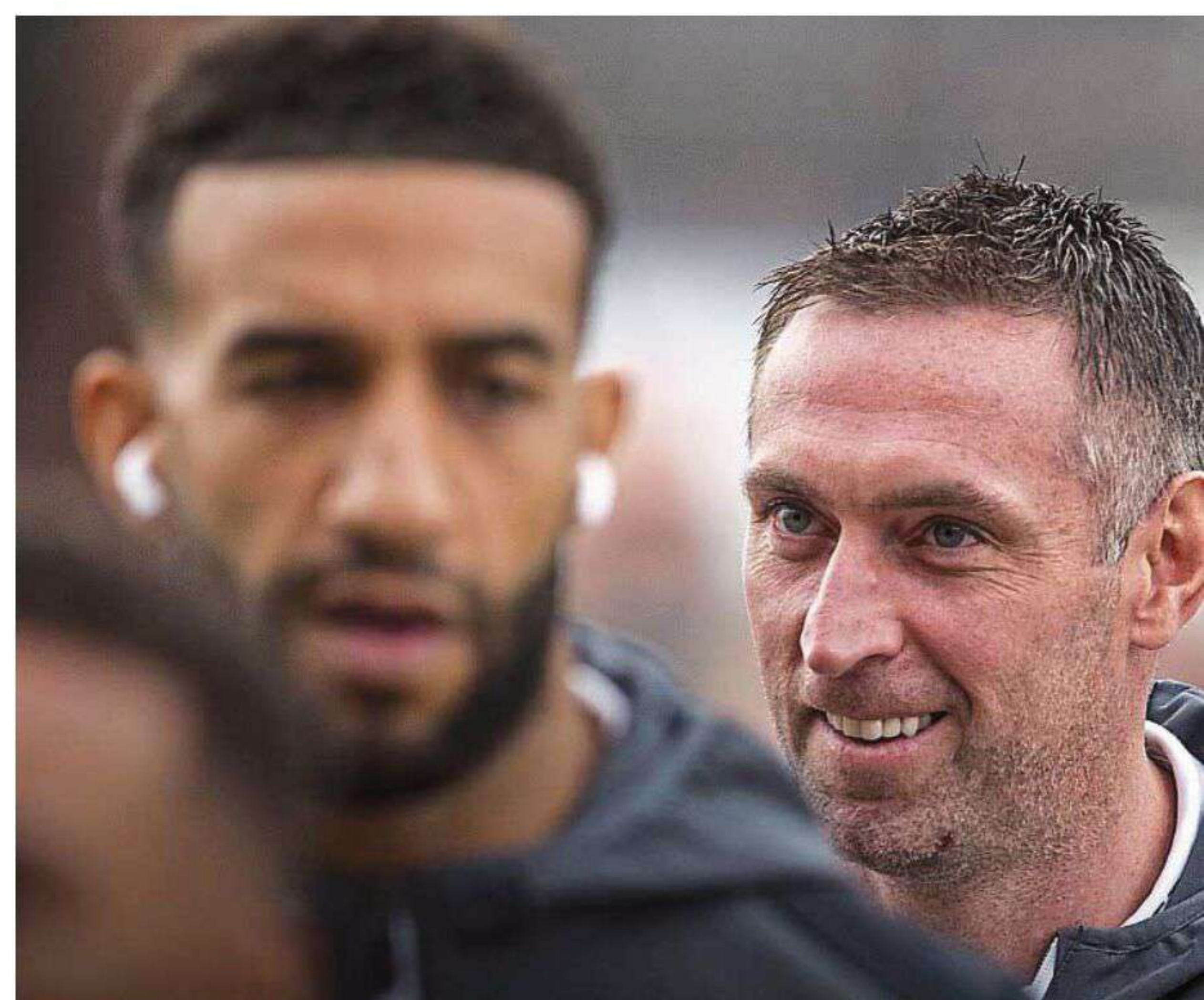
defeats. We talked about it and now is the chance to get a good result.'

Van Bronckhorst hopes the Ibrox crowd will lift his side.

He added: 'Playing at home is a big difference.'

'Being a Rangers manager or a Rangers player, two defeats in a row is not acceptable.'

'We go out with the same philosophy and try to win.'



McGREGOR READY TO STEP IN

VETERAN goalkeeper Allan McGregor has been backed to be a safe pair of hands against Napoli at Ibrox tonight.

McGregor has played just one game this season, against Queen of the South in the League Cup, but will face the Italians as Jon McLaughlin is injured.

Rangers boss Giovanni van Bronckhorst said: 'It is different for Allan, that he is not starting

the games. He is still the same in training, still the same person and I have every faith in him because of the experience he has.'

'He will be fine. I have no doubt in my mind that he will perform.'

Captain James Tavernier is also in line to play after carrying a knock. Van Bronckhorst said: 'The one-week break for Tav is really welcome because it meant he could recover more than normal.'

ALF BACK IN FAVOUR WITH BOSS

RANGERS striker Alfredo Morelos could make a shock return to the starting line-up against Napoli tonight, according to manager Giovanni van Bronckhorst.

The Colombia striker has not started a match since a 2-1 win at Dundee in March and was left out of the Champions League play-off second leg against PSV Eindhoven due to concerns over his fitness and attitude.

Croatia striker Antonio Colak has led the line this season but Rangers boss van Bronckhorst has been impressed by the way Morelos has knuckled down since missing the PSV trip. He

came off the bench during the 4-0 loss to Celtic and was an unused sub for the 4-0 defeat by Ajax last midweek.

But ahead of the second Group A fixture against Napoli at Ibrox, van Bronckhorst hinted that Rangers' record European scorer could be back in favour.

He said: 'He's better than a couple of weeks ago, mentally and physically.'

'He is training really well. I had a good conversation with him. Not being involved against PSV was a big wake-up call. After that, he has done really well.'

'He is in a far better place than in the last couple of weeks. He

makes it difficult for me now to decide who to start.'

Meanwhile, Steven Davis, 37, knows Rangers will have to be at their best to take something from the game.

The midfielder said: 'Napoli have had a very impressive start to the season, magnified by the result against Liverpool as well.'

'We know we're going to have to be at our very best to get something from the game.'

'But we also know that with the crowd behind us here we can create something really special.'

'The home games were always going to be important for us, so this is another opportunity.'



Limbering up: Alfredo Morelos takes part in a training session at Murray Park

FRASER BACK IN THE FOLD

NEWCASTLE ATTACKER
EARNS RECALL AFTER
CALL-OFF CONTROVERSY

In the firing
line: Allan
McGregor will
replace injured
Jon McLaughlin
against Napoli

Comeback:
Ryan Fraser has
returned to the
Scotland squad

STEVE CLARKE has given Ryan Fraser a second chance after calling up the Newcastle winger for this month's Nations League triple-header.

Fraser, capped 22 times, controversially withdrew from the squad for the World Cup Group F qualifying double-header against Moldova and Denmark last November but was pictured at his club's training ground.

Clarke revealed in March that Fraser had apologised for his actions and the former Aberdeen and Bournemouth wide man is back in favour.

Scots skipper Andy Robertson misses out after the Liverpool defender was injured in the closing stages of last week's Champions League defeat at Napoli.

On Fraser's return for games with Ukraine home and away, either side of facing the Republic of

by KENNY MCKEE

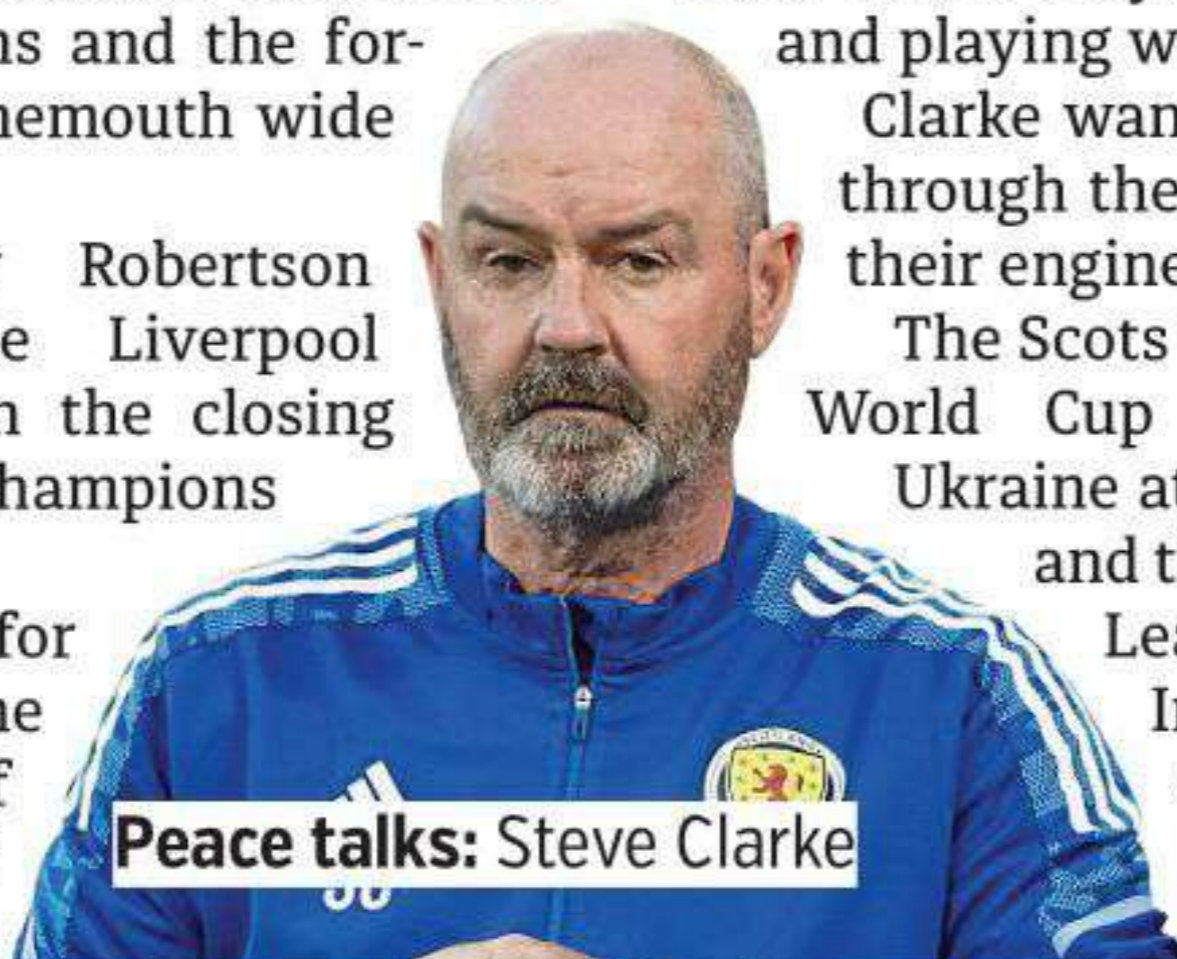
Ireland at Hampden Park on September 24, Scots boss Clarke said: 'I said in March, after he missed the two friendlies against Poland and Austria that we had a chat.

'Ryan wasn't playing for Newcastle then and I said if he is fit and well and playing for Newcastle he is one that we have to consider. That's why he here. He is fit and well and playing well for Newcastle.'

Clarke wants Scotland to start going through the gears again after stalling their engine in the summer.

The Scots were knocked out of their World Cup play-off semi-final by Ukraine at Hampden Park on June 1 and then suffered a 3-0 Nations League defeat by Republic of Ireland, either side of wins over Armenia.

Assessing his squad,



Peace talks: Steve Clarke

THE JOKE IS ON GILMOUR - FOR NOW

STEVE CLARKE is ready to throw his arm around Billy Gilmour when he reports for Scotland duty - after having a light-hearted dig at the midfielder.

Gilmour (right), 21, moved to Brighton from Chelsea in a £9million deal on transfer deadline day before boss Graham Potter moved to Stamford Bridge a week later to replace Thomas Tuchel.

Discussing his inclusion in the squad for the Nations League matches against

Ukraine and Republic of Ireland, Clarke joked: 'He's not very lucky, Billy, is he?'

He quickly added: 'I think Billy wanted to play more football. He didn't feel he was going to get that chance at Chelsea and obviously football can change very quickly, as Billy has found out. 'But he has everything to play for at Brighton. It's down to him. 'We know he is one for us. We have him in the squad and we can give him a little bit of comfort when he comes up.'



Clarke said: 'It's a squad that has progressed well over my tenure. June was the first time we stopped.

'We have to pick up and start progressing through these three games. Our destiny in

our own hands and that's all you can hope for.' While Robertson drops out, Arsenal left-back Kieran Tierney returns from the knee injury which kept him out of the four summer fixtures.

NAPOLI FOCUS

RANGERS TAKE ON NAPOLI IN THEIR SECOND CHAMPIONS LEAGUE GROUP A GAME AT IBROX TONIGHT. HERE WE LOOKS AT THEIR NEXT OPPONENTS

FORM

Napoli, who finished third in Serie A last season behind AC Milan and Inter Milan, got their Champions League campaign off to a terrific start with a 4-1 win over last season's finalists Liverpool at their Diego Maradona Stadium. Luciano Spalletti's side have also started well domestically, with four wins and two draw from their first six league fixtures putting them top of the table on goal difference from Atalanta and reigning champions AC Milan.

MANAGER

Spalletti's coaching career started in the mid-1990s at Empoli, one of the clubs he played for as a midfielder. The

63-year-old has been boss at Sampdoria, Udinese, Roma - where he twice won the Coppa Italia - and Inter Milan in his homeland, as well as a five-year spell at Zenit St Petersburg, where he won the Russian Premier League twice. Spalletti joined Napoli in May 2021, after two years away from management, replacing former Rangers midfielder Gennaro Gattuso.

PLAYERS

Captain Giovanni Di Lorenzo was in the Italy side that won Euro 2020 while goalkeeper Alex Meret was in the squad but did not play. Poland international Piotr Zielinski, who scored twice against Liverpool, is one to watch, while

Nigeria star Victor Osimhen, who normally leads the line, is ruled out through injury. Giovanni Simeone, son of former Argentina international Diego Simeone, could replace him. Napoli recruited heavily in the summer, with Cameroon midfielder Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa, Uruguay left-back Mathias Olivera, South Korea international Kim Min-jae and on-loan Tottenham midfielder Tanguy Ndombele all arriving. But Georgian winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, who arrived from Dinamo Batumi, has



Kvaradona: Khvicha Kvaratskhelia

been the pick of the bunch, earning the nickname Kvaradona.

EUROPEAN PEDIGREE

Diego Maradona is still a hero at Napoli, having inspired them to their only two Serie A titles, in 1986-87 and 1989-90, as well as the Uefa Cup in 1989, when they beat German side Stuttgart over two legs to lift their only European title. Although they have been regulars on the European stage, they have rarely made an impact on the latter stages in recent times.



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